

DONALD

Phone: 5497 1222
Email:
buloket@inet.net.au
admin@buloketimes.com

The Buloke Times

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BIRCHIP

Phone: 5492 2735
Fax: 5492 2863
Email:
birchipblc@bigpond.com

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

Charlton to Host Rural Youth Event

Youthrive Victoria is partnering with the NCLLEN to host a special event at the Charlton Bowling Club on Friday, February 11, from 5 p.m., for community members to find out more about the new Rural Youth Network.

Guests will enjoy the music of Elias Lanyon from Boort, have a barbecue, and play some barefoot bowls, while learning about the Rural Youth Network and the opportunities it provides.

The Network aims to build a new type of community where the best of local community connections is blended with the best of on-line opportunities.

It is a place that will provide young rural and regional Victorians (aged 16 to 30) with the information and opportunities to build their connections, resilience and supports.

Rural Youth Network leader, Finn Poxon, from Boort is very excited about the network having been a beneficiary of Youthrive initiatives over the last two years.

"Being part of this network has been fantastic for my confidence," he said.

"It has helped me make connections and develop strong networks, and allowed me to get involved in projects that make a real difference to young people."

People from 16 to 30 are invited to join the network, while people over 30 are invited to support the development of the Rural Youth Network by donating to Youthrive or providing opportunities such as internships, mentoring, potential jobs, volunteer opportunities and invitations to other events and interest groups.

An initiative of Youthrive Victoria, the Rural Youth Network has been created by young rural people for young rural people.

To attend the February 11 event, rsvp by completing the form at <https://bit.ly/RYN-Charlton>.



• Left to right, Maryann Brown (CEO, Creswick), Brady Cronin (Maffra), Finn Poxon, Thomas Pollard, Ella Jacobsen (Seymour), Charlotte Williams (Sea Lake).



• Pictured on the first day of Birchip kindergarten for 2022, back row, left to right, teacher Jacinta Bourke, assistants Emma Bennett and Tammy Ward. Middle row (3 year olds): Heidi McKilroy, Bradey Poyner, Archer Hickmott, Willow Vale, Ruby Poyner, Imogen Noonan, Layla Wheeler, Lucy Noonan. Front Row (4 year olds): Isla Walder, Bridget McAuliffe, Charlie Ferrier, Flynn Boyle, Jock Richmond, Savannah Ryan, Nikita McLean, Leo McLoughlan, Milla Shannon.

Kinder Time Again

A quality kindergarten program is a powerful way to support children's development. The benefits last into the school years and beyond, and the research shows that two years are better than one when it comes to early learning.

Buloke Shire kindergartens were an early adopter of combining 15 hours of funded kindergarten each week for three-year-olds with the four-year-old program, and this year at Birchip the program has become so successful that there are 29 children enrolled in three- and four-year-old kindergarten.

Consequently, kindergarten under the guidance of teacher Jacinta Bourke, and assistants Emma Bennett

• Continued on page 2.

Tom Has a Point

Another Australia Day has passed. This year, angry demands to change the name to Invasion Day or Day of Mourning did not gain much traction. There was the usual silliness when a few ignoramuses doused Captain Cook statues with red paint. (The explorer died tragically nine years before Governor Phillip planted the British flag at Sydney Cove on January 26, 1788.)

Then the Canberra “Tent Embassy” took the lime-light for its 50th anniversary. Some people might question whether this protest has passed its use-by date. Since the 1970s, more than 10 per cent of Australia has, by law, been set aside as Aboriginal land. Recently the “Embassy” was used (without permission) as a cover (smokescreen) for an arson attack on old Parliament House.

These ill-conceived distractions failed to overshadow the nation’s celebrations, but they did raise questions about the community’s grasp of our nation’s

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relevant history. For example, how many people know or remember that:

- Abel Tasman planted a flag on Van Diemen’s Land (Tasmania), 146 years before the British fleet arrived at Botany Bay.
- Even earlier Malay and Dutch navigators made contact with the Great South Land.
- Governor Phillip claimed less than half the continent for Britain in 1788. He beat the French to it by a couple of days. He was speared by Aborigines at Manly.
- The West wasn’t claimed until 40 years after New South Wales.

• The continent was still popularly known as New Holland until well into the 19th century. Matthew Flinders, our circumnavigator, promoted and popularised the name “Australia”, which officially became our name at Federation on January 1, 1901. There was no known Aboriginal name for the whole island.

There are many other points of interest. Perhaps it is time that Australian history, both before and after European settlement, was given a higher spot on national and state education programs. (Using the Geoffrey Blainey rather than the Bruce Pascoe version).

Professor Tom Calma, eminent Aboriginal leader (well and favourably known to some locals) is working with Marcia Langton to advise the Australian government on Aboriginal matters. On Australia Day he said that the date should be kept, but the day should be given a different focus. From emphasising Britain’s arrival, we should move more towards celebrating the Australian character today and for the future. He refers to our national qualities like volunteering and other things to which we can all relate. It’s a fair comment.

State Rolls Out 3-Year-Old Kinder

Children from all corners of Victoria will start Three-Year-Old Kinder funded by the State Government this week, as part of a nation-leading reform to give every child the best start to their early education.

Member for Northern Victoria, Mark Gepp, has commended the statewide roll-out of Three-Year-Old Kinder services, part of the Government’s decade-long reform of early childhood education across Victoria.

Around 2,700 services across Victoria’s 79 local government areas will deliver at least five hours per week of Three-Year-Old Kindergarten this year, before gradually scaling up to reach the full 15-hour program by 2029.

Commencing in 2020 within six regional local government areas (LGA’s) – Buloke, Yarriambiack, Hindmarsh, Northern Grampians, Strathbogie and South Gippsland – the program has now rolled out to all LGA across the state.

The Government will invest almost \$5 billion this decade in this Australian-first reform, which provides three-year-old children with access to an additional year of funded kindergarten programs.

Research

Research on the benefits of early childhood education is clear: children who have attended two years of a quality kindergarten program will have better cognitive and social skills when they start school, higher exam scores and better social and emotional outcomes at age 16, and be more likely to go on to higher academic study.

As well as the many benefits for Victorian children, this reform is delivering quality

jobs for Victorians when we need them most – creating more than 6,000 teacher and educator jobs around the state and around 5,000 construction jobs over 10 years.

Kinder Kit

Children enrolled in funded Three-Year-Old Kindergarten will also receive a Kinder Kit, a colourful carry-case jam-packed with educational toys and resources to celebrate that kindergarten in Victoria now starts at age three.

The Kinder Kits will be distributed from the start of Term 1 to children enrolled in Three-Year-Old Kindergarten, and have been created to complement learning at kinder with fun and creative activities that encourage family

engagement in their child’s education and promote awareness of the benefits of continued learning at home.

The Labor Government has supported kinder and early childhood services across Victoria to be COVID-Safe, protecting children and staff – with almost \$15 million in grants for services to deliver better ventilation and other COVIDSafe measures, alongside rapid antigen tests to be provided twice a week to every staff member.

Families can talk to their local kindergarten and long day care services about enrolling for 2022, and can look for a service near them by visiting the “Find a Kinder Program” website at: <https://findakinder.educationapps.vic.gov.au>

Newspapers’ Online Survey

A new online survey is seeking views on how Australians living in regional, rural or remote areas access news as part of a federal parliamentary inquiry into Australia’s regional newspapers.

The House of Representatives Standing Committee on Communications and the Arts chairperson, Dr. Anne Webster, said, “Over the past ten years news outlets in rural, regional and remote communities have closed their doors, which has resulted in a substantial reduction of articles covering local issues.

“It is important that we listen to our communities about what’s important to them. This survey provides an opportunity for these communities to express their views on whether the loss of their regional voice has directly affected them.

“I encourage anyone who lives in Australia’s regional,

rural or remote areas to participate in the online survey.”

The survey is open until February 11, 2022, and takes less than 10 minutes to complete.

Information about the committee may be found on the committee’s webpage — https://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/House/Communications/Regionalnewspapers

Kinder Time Again

• Continued from page 1.

and Tammy Ward, will be run over four days, with children attending three days between Monday and Thursday, for five hours per day.

Unfortunately, this does mean that only seventeen of the twenty nine children were able to be included in the day one photograph. It’s hoped, throughout the year, there will be a chance to photograph different groups to ensure everyone gets to see a kindergarten memory in the “Buloke Times”.

Birchip Kindergarten is hosted at the Birchip Early Learning Centre, which is co-located with day-care on the site of the Birchip P-12 School, making it an easy transition for many of the children who have previously attended day care.

On the first day, the children all appeared very comfortable with the routines of packing up their own lunch box and belongings, and they were visibly excited to be involved in lots of play-based learning activities with their friends.



Foundation Four

• Foundation Students at St. Joseph’s Primary School, Charlton, in 2022 are, left to right, Madelyn Winslade, Vinny Roberts, Mia Wright and Lila Lanyon.

Kelvin Reaches for the Stars

Astronomy has long been the chosen path of Charlton’s Kelvin Getley.

The son of Buloke Shire Councillor Alan Getley, and his wife, Lorna, Kelvin has responded to a request for details of his PhD in Astronomy, completed last year.

Our thanks to Kelvin for meeting the request, as follows:

*

My graduation ceremony at USQ was postponed due to Covid, so my award was conferred “in absentia” (so I’m officially graduated); however, I’ll be attending a ceremony when things settle down a bit.

My PhD in Astronomy was completed through the University of Southern Queensland (USQ) as an off-campus student. I started it in 2013 and finished in 2021.

My PhD was supervised by Prof. Brad Carter (Professor of Physics and Director of the Centre for Astrophysics at USQ), Associate Professor Rachel King (Associate Professor of Statistics at USQ, and Dr. Simon O’Toole (Head of Data & IT and Data Central Project Scientist at the Australian Astronomical Optics at Macquarie University).

Thesis
My thesis (completed as a Thesis by Publication) was titled “Detecting binary star planetary and brown dwarf companions from analysis of eclipse timing variations”, where the bulk of it is made up of my three articles that have been published in the Monthly Notices of the Royal Astronomical Society.

The focus of the thesis was on eclipsing binary stars (two stars that are gravitationally bound together and happen to be lined up so that they periodically pass in front of each other, or eclipse, when viewed from Earth) and analysing the times of the eclipses to look for variations in the expected eclipse time and the actual eclipse time to determine if there are any other objects orbiting the stars.

Three Papers
The three papers I’ve had published are:
(1) “Evidence for a planetary mass third body orbiting the binary star KIC 5095269” – Where I provide evidence of a planet that has 7.7 times the mass of Jupiter orbiting two stars outside our solar system.
(2) “Stability of planetary, single M dwarf, and binary

star companions to Kepler detached eclipsing binaries and a possible five-body system” – where I analyse previously reported systems to ensure they are stable over the long term (i.e. the planets/stars remain gravitationally bound) as well as discover a few additional bodies (mostly stars) such as a non-eclipsing binary that itself eclipses an eclipsing binary.

(3) “The detectability of binary star planetary and brown dwarf companions from eclipse timing variations.” – I ran tens of thousands of simulations on the National Computational Infrastructure (a supercomputer located at the Australian National University in Canberra) to determine the extent to which eclipse timing variations can detect low-mass objects around binary stars.

Time to Relax
In the immediate term (i.e., over the next few months), I plan on taking some time to rest and relax after a lot of years of hard work.

After that I’m hoping to find a postdoc position so I can continue doing research, including possibly finding



• Dr. Kelvin Getley.

more planets and other weird and wonderful objects hidden out in the universe.

Watchem Australia Day, 2022

(From Watchem Progress Association)

Watchem celebrated Australia Day in the Park with the usual big breakfast and good company; however, the attendance was down somewhat on recent years.

Watchem Progress Association has traditionally run the morning, with the help of a few loyal volunteers to see that it is all in place. Covid has weaved a bit of doubt for some residents in a lot of places, and Watchem was no different.

The morning started with the traditional bacon, sausages, hamburgers and eggs on toast, plus juice and coffee, and was then followed by the raising of the flag by Watchem Fire Brigade Captain and helper, Chris Colbert, to the singing of the National Anthem.

With the absence of a guest speaker — hard to find in smaller communities — a brief but informative discussion was had about goings on in the town and district, with the focus on the lead up to the Street Art Festival on the long weekend in March.

This weekend is including both Watchem and Birchip with street art, and much more.

Volunteers
Certificates of Appreciation for the generous volun-

tary work done by two members of the community were to be handed out on the morning, but unfortunately neither could be in attendance.

Barry Johnson and Ian Mallet have, in the past, done many many hours on the community mower to keep the town, lake and cemetery tidy for all to enjoy. These certificates will be presented to both men as soon as possible. Thanks to them for their efforts, because it has made Watchem a better place.

Progress Meets
Progress held its first meeting for 2022 on Tuesday, February 1, and it was decided to change up the Australia Day Celebration for 2023. Members voted to try a new time and location for the

event, with a view to lifting attendance and participation.

The 2023 event will be at the Watchem Lake at 5 p.m. for a barbecue tea, and maybe some different activities. This is a work in progress, so stay tuned for more information closer to the time.

Progress thanks all who helped with the day for set up and clean up, cooking and cleaning the Hub, plus a special thanks to Walders Rivery Eggs, Sharp’s Bakery and the Buloke Shire (which had the park looking good and the refurbished Comfort Station clean and tidy). Thanks also must go to those who could make it on the morning, with some coming from Horsham for the event.

See you all again next year.



• Chris Colbert raises the Australian Flag.

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Belvedere By George Crenshaw
www.belvedere-cartoons.com



“You’re right. He does have fleas.”



• Watchem residents gathered at the local park to celebrate Australia Day.

"Times" Classifieds

Phone Donald 5497 1222, Birchip 5492 2735

Deadlines:—

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

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



ENGAGEMENT CLARK - ASLAN

Bernie and Virginia Clark of Donald, Victoria together with Donald Olds and Ofra Aslan of Montreal, Québec are happy to share the news of the engagement of,

John Alexander Clark and Jasmine Tal Marcelle Aslan, on December 24, 2021 in Cambridge, England.

Best wishes for a wonderful future together.

DEATH HOMMELHOFF.—

Ian Phillip

Passed away after a tough fight with MND, on Sunday, January 30, 2022 aged only 79 years.

Dearly loved son of Phil and Esther Hommelhoff (both dec.) formerly of Wyche-proof, adored brother of Roma Jordan (dec.), Janice Rooney (dec.), Noelene Weaver (dec.), Gary, Faye Fitzgibbon (dec.), Bruce, Wayne and their families.

So dearly loved, so dearly missed by everyone who had the pleasure to meet him.

Loved husband of Lorna and treasured dad of Phil, Joanne and Donna. Father-in-law of Neil, Suzanne and friend of Jeremy.

Adored Pop of Max, Bonnie and Charlie; Emily, Jessica, Amy and Alex; Sam, Tom, Maggie and Sophie. Great-grandfather of Louella, Isla, Finn and Violet.

Heaven just gained another champion bloke!

Rest Peacefully
Hommy XXX

DEATH HOMMELHOFF.—

Ian Phillip

30/01/2022

Loved husband of Lorna. Loved son-in-law of Herb and Ruby Cook (both dec.).

Loved brother-in-law of Aubrey & Betty (both dec.), Gwen & Ron (both dec.), Mervyn & Eily (both dec.), Shirley & Ted (both dec.), Lyle & Gladys (dec.), Avril & Ray (dec.), Coral, Errol (dec.), Thelma & Donald McNaughton (dec.) and Graeme & Lesley.

HOMMELHOFF.— Ian

Loved brother-in-law of Graeme & Lesley Cook.

Uncle of Michelle & John White, David & Margitta Cook (Germany), Tony & Josephine Cook, Chris & Claire Cook and families.

Our deepest sympathy to Lorna & family.

Rest after suffering.

HOMMELHOFF.— Ian

Hommy, a funny, humble & generous character.

Will treasure our footy chats.

Our deepest sympathy to Auntie Lorna & family

— Chris, Claire & family.

FUNERAL NOTICE HOMMELHOFF.—

Ian Phillip

The Funeral of Ian Phillip Hommelhoff will leave St. Andrew's Uniting Church, Horsham, on Friday, February 11, after a service commencing at 11 a.m., for the Horsham Lawn Cemetery.

Trevor Bysouth & Daughter
WIMMERA FUNERALS
Horsham - 5381 1444
ADFA MEMBER

IN MEMORIAM JANET THERESE CONNELLY

January 30, 2020

Our beautiful Mum, We think about you always;

We talk about you still. You have never been forgotten

And you never will.

We think of you in silence And make no outward show,

But what it meant to lose you,

Only those who love you know.

Your memory is our keep-sake

With which we'll never part.

God has you in his keeping, We have you in our heart.

We hold you close within our hearts

And there you shall remain,

To walk and guide us through our lives

Until we meet again.

—Our love always

Robbie, Erin, Mac,
Jonah and Tan xx

BEREAVEMENT THANK YOU

The family of the late Janine Edwards, wish to extend sincere thanks to everyone for expressing their love and support by attending the farewell service for Janine, sending flowers, cards, phone calls and food.

A special thank-you to Dr. Donald Liu, District Nursing and the palliative care teams for your dedicated support. Thank-you to Gardiners Funerals for your professionalism, Rev. James Wood, for conducting a personalised and memorable service honouring Janine, and also to the Anglican Ladies for serving afternoon tea.

— David, Evelyn, Melissa,
Allison, Meagan
and families.

GOOD LUCK

Best wishes to Ella and Taina as you commence your VCE studies.

It'll be a big couple of years, but I know you can make it.

All the very best and make your auntie proud!

—All my love, Aunt Babe
Smith, Ramsgate, U.K..



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Bereavement Thank-You

NOONAN

Leo

25/09/1933 - 29/07/2021



A man of faith and a life well-lived.

Kathy

21/04/1932 - 31/12/2021



A cherished Mum who lived for her family.

The family of the late Leo and Kathy Noonan (Charlton), sincerely thank you for the cards, flowers and kind expressions of sympathy following their passing.

Loved parents of 7 and adored grandparents to 29, Leo passed in late July and Kathy in December.

The support shown during these difficult times is very much appreciated and a great comfort to us all.

— Wendy, Bernadette, Maree, Shane, Peter,
Gabrielle, Richard and their families.



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42 Woods St.

12 noon

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A.G.M.

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 9

6.30 p.m.

RSL HALL

New members welcome



FOOTBALL COACHES REQUIRED FOR SEASON 2022

Coaches required for
Reserves and U14 Girls.

Please forward application or expression of interest to
BWFC Secretary,
Stephanie Coffey at
stephanieburchip@gmail.com
or call 0407867767 for further
information.

Applications close
Friday, February 25, 2022.



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DONALD HIGH SCHOOL EDUCATION SUPPORT WORKER VACANCY

Donald High School has a position available for a
suitable person to be an Education Support worker.

The position would involve providing educational
support to funded and non-funded students that
experience learning difficulties, and providing additional
classroom support to our teachers.

The position is for four days per week between the
hours of 9 a.m. — 3.30 p.m. with a 30-minute lunch
break (0.64 Time Fraction), **starting on Monday,
February 21, 2022.**

Previous experience is preferred, but not essential.

Please apply for this position through the Department
of Education and Training's online jobs portal
Recruitment Online (Job ID No. 1264896) [https://
schooljobs.eduweb.vic.gov.au/psc/ROLPPRD1_EA/A
PPLICANT/HRMS/c/HRS_HRAM_FL.HRS.CG_SEAR
H_FL.GBL/SEARCH_FL.GBL/SEARCH_FL.GBL?FOCU
S=Applicant&](https://schooljobs.eduweb.vic.gov.au/psc/ROLPPRD1_EA/A_PPLICANT/HRMS/c/HRS_HRAM_FL.HRS.CG_SEARH_FL.GBL/SEARCH_FL.GBL/SEARCH_FL.GBL?FOCUS=Applicant&)

Please ensure you attach a cover letter addressed
to the Principal, Mr. Paul Aikman, a resume with
the contact details of 3 referees and an address
to the key selection criteria in your application.

Applications close at midnight on **Monday, February
14, 2022.**



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- Nurse Unit Manager
- Registered Nurse

Further information available at
ewhs.org.au/employment.html

FOR LEASE BY TENDER

496.7 Ac / 201 HA
"PETER'S" AND "TOOMEY'S",
WATCHEM, VIC.

"Peter's" 160 Acres, 1 paddock, Canola stubble.

"Toomey's" 336.7 Acres, 2 paddocks, Barley stubble.

**Excellent cropping country — mixed soil types, highly
arable, Sunraysia Highway frontage and Wimmera
Mallee pipeline connected.**

TERMS: 3 Years commencing on acceptance of tender.

TENDERS CLOSE:
2 p.m, Wednesday, March 16, 2022

*Tender forms available from the leasing agent,
inspection strictly by appointment.*



Elders Donald
Jason Rice 0417 087 019

FOR LEASE BY TENDER

3247 Ac / 1314 HA
BIRCHIP — KINNABULLA DISTRICT
A/C T & R GOULD, "WOODLANDS"
Cropping & Grazing Land
As a whole or in 5 separate lots

LOT 1: "Woodlands" 457 acres, 2 paddocks, all
arable, presently wheat stubble & pasture, allots 10
& 19 Parish of Wirmbirchip.

LOT 2: "South Block" 654 acres, 4 paddocks,
currently cereal & pea stubble, allots 4, 19A, 20 &
22 Parish of Wirmbirchip, adjacent to Lot 1.

LOT 3: "West Block" 1178 acres, 5 paddocks,
currently chem. fallow, wheat & pea stubble and
pasture, allots 70, 71, 71A & 74 Parish of Wirmbirchip.

Lots 1, 2 & 3 all contiguous.

LOT 4: "Danners" 655 acres, 2 main paddocks,
currently barley stubble & chem fallow, allots 50,
Pt 51, Pt 54A Parish of Kinnabulla, dissected by
Sunraysia Highway.

LOT 5: "Porters" 303 acres, 1 paddock currently
wheat stubble, allot. 81 Parish of Wirmbirchip.

**Excellent opportunity for district farmers to increase
farm enterprises with a long term lease agreement.**
**All lots a good balance of red & grey loams. Paddock
histories available.**

LEASE TERM: 5 years commencing on acceptance of
tender.

TENDERS CLOSE:
Thursday, March 10, 2022 at 12 noon.

*Tender forms available from the leasing agent,
inspection by appointment only.*



Elders Wycheproof
Shane McLoughlan 0418 844 533

FOR SALE BY TENDER

Cropping/Grazing Land
Warracknabeal — Brim East District
**1711 acres (692.71ha) approx. -
in two lots**

Well managed blocks with mixed medium loam soils,
typical of the area.

LOT 1: 978 acres (395.95ha) approx.
Pipeline water connected, sealed road access.

LOT 2: 733 acres (296.76ha) approx.
Pipeline water connected, lockup steel frame machinery
shed, 2 hay sheds, shearing shed & yards.

Tenders close: Friday, February 11, 2022 @ 2 p.m.
All or any tender not necessarily accepted.



CONTACT:
Nick McIntyre — 0409 180 016
Elders 30 Scott Street, Warracknabeal

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931079. Applications close on Thursday, 10 February 2021.



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excellent heart with great
structure & carrying capacity, 99% arable
Solid cropping history, ready to go off
back of canola crop 2021
Inspection welcome

**Expression of interest closes
10th Feb 2022 at 3 pm**

Further Particulars:

FP Nevins & Co Real Estate P/L
92 Brooke Street, INGLEWOOD VIC 3517
Office: 03 5438 3041
James Nevins: 0407 302 900 Doug Finlay: 0407 927 573



“Times” Classifieds

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Friday's Issue: by 3 p.m. Wednesday prior.

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YARRA VALLEY – HEALESVILLE – MELBOURNE - DANDENONGS

6 days Monday 14th March \$2785

Highlights: Healesville Sanctuary, Queen Victoria Market, Marysville, Bruno Torf's Gallery, Steavenson Falls, Yarra Valley, Puffing Billy, MCG tour, Melbourne Botanic Gardens, Eureka Observation Deck, Rayner's Fruit Orchard, Coombe Cottage, Yarra Valley Chocolaterie, Mt Dandenong Lookout, Tea Leaves Australia, Cloudehill Nursery, Southbank, Yarra River Cruise.

NORFOLK ISLAND (NO PASSPORT REQUIRED)

10 days Thursday 24th March \$5760

Highlights: Wonderland by Night, Norfolk Island tour, Fletchers Mutiny Cyclorama, Dinner with the Mutineers, Scenic BBQ, Island Fish Fry, Behind the Hedges tour, Norfolk Indulgence Tour, Convict Settlement Tour, South Pacific Resort Hotel, Progressive Dinner, Glass Bottom Boat Cruise, Christian's 4WD Tour, Night as a Convict Dinner, Breakfast Bush Walk.

SAPPHIRE COAST

9 days Tuesday 5th April \$3980

Highlights: Lakes Entrance, Gippsland Lakes Cruise, Buchan Caves, Mallacoota, Merimbula, Merimbula Aquarium, Eden, Eden Killer Whale Museum, Cat Balou Cruise on Twofold Bay, Bega Cheese Factory, Mogo Town, Mogo Zoo, Eurobodalla Botanic Garden, Batemans Bay, Clyde River Cruise, Canberra City Tour, Government House, Wodonga.

BRIGHT IN AUTUMN

6 days Monday 2nd May \$2590

Highlights: Benalla, Bright Autumn Leaves, Harrietville, Wandiligong, Bright Art Gallery, Red Stag Deer Farm, Beechworth, Burke Museum, Yackandandah, Falls Creek, Bogong National Park, Mt Buffalo, Mt Beauty, Kiawa Valley, Lavender Farm, Myrtleford, and Glenrowan.

SYDNEY AND THE BLUE MOUNTAINS

8 days Wednesday 11th May \$3900

Highlights: Albury, Dog on the Tuckerbox, Sydney, Sydney Opera House, Harbour Bridge, Darling Harbour, The Rocks, Sydney Harbour Dinner Cruise, Sydney Tower, Kings Cross, Bondi Beach, Manly Ferry, Chinatown, Star City Casino, Blue Mountains, Katoomba, Bathurst, Cowra, Young.

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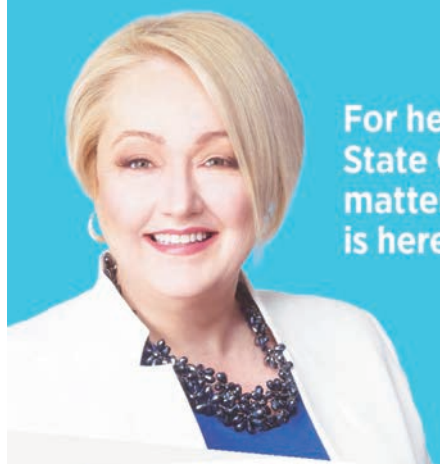
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CHURCH NOTICES

UNITING CHURCH (North Central Living Waters Cluster)

Birchip, 10 a.m..
Donald, 10 a.m..
Wycheproof, 10 a.m.

Contact Number: 5497 1033.

ANGLICAN “Parish of Charlton-Donald”

Enquiries: Rev'd Judi Bird
0435 593 395

Friday
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St. Paul's Birchip 5 p.m.

Sunday
Holy Communion (all services)
St. George's, Donald, 11 a.m.
St. Martin's, Charlton, 1 p.m.
Holy Trinity, W'burn, 3 p.m.

DISTRICT CATHOLIC CHURCHES “East Wimmera Parish”

Birchip 10.30 a.m.
(Livestream out to churches
without Mass)

Boort (Stream in) 10.30 a.m.

Banyena No Mass

Charlton 10.30 a.m.
(Stream in)

Donald 8.30 a.m.

St. Arnaud (Sat.) 7.00 p.m.

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New Year, New Staff

The first week of the new school year started with a rush. New students were welcomed, classes started and the Prep testing blitz began.

Birchip P-12 School has appointed several new staff members to our team. Olivia Dalglish is teaching Physical Education from Prep to year Twelve. Curtis Desjardins has entered our Mathematics faculty. Curtis will be teaching years seven through to twelve. Susie Marks has begun also, being employed as a classroom assistant. Janelle Barbary also joins us and will be involved in the Numeracy Teacher Learning Initiative, as well as some Mathematics teaching. Joshua Richmond returns from family leave, as does Marian Haddrick. Joshua will be teaching Mathematical Methods, Marian Some English and providing tutoring.

A move to the Mallee was perhaps inevitable for Ms Dalglish; it's the name of one of her two border collies! Ms Dalglish, Mallee and Pippa have moved to Birchip from Kaniva, bringing with them a fierce support of the Port Adelaide Football Club.

Outside of teaching PE, Ms Dalglish enjoys yoga, reading, musical theatre and spending time with her nephew, Leo.

Janelle is excited to join the Birchip P-12 School community in 2022. She lives on a farm on the edge of Woomeelang with her husband, Simon, and their three boys.

Janelle grew up in Geelong and is a keen Cats supporter. Her family all play for Sea Lake-Nandaly Tigers, and enjoy the friendly rivalry when they play against Birchip-Watchem Bulls.

Since moving to the Mallee 19 years ago, Janelle has spent the majority of her teaching days at Tyrrell College, teaching across most levels in Primary and Secondary. At Birchip, she will be teaching Year 9/10 Maths and deliver the TLI in the primary area.

Suzie Marks recently moved from Bendigo to Birchip to join her family,



BULLETIN

Deon (Birchip's local policeman), Will and Maddie.

She has worked as a Legal Assistant for the past 25 years, and is very much looking forward to her new role as a teacher's aide at Birchip P-12 School.

Curtis Desjardins (or simply, Mr. D) is originally from the Toronto/Niagara Falls area of Canada. He taught computer programming at his University and graduated with undergrad degrees in Mathematics and Psychology. He later moved overseas to Japan and Korea to continue teaching, and while there helped found and coach Korea's very first women's rugby team, The Seoul Wanderers. Curtis moved to Australia 10 years ago with his wife. He recently received his Australian citizenship and a Masters degree in Secondary Teaching. Curtis and his wife are currently owned by four mischief-making cats.

In his spare time, he helps organise various Supa-nova and ComicCon events, and has recently begun his own video gaming stream. If you see him and his beard around town, or flying by on a moped, give a wave!

We wish all of the new and returning staff members all the best for the upcoming year.

Activities

In the next few weeks a multitude of activities will occur. These include the annual house and inter-school swimming meets. These will be held on Friday, February 11, in Birchip and Monday, March 7, in St. Arnaud.

Year 7 camp to the Grampians and Year 8 to Portland will occur in the week beginning Monday, February 14.

The voting for the responsibility positions for the junior



• New and returning staff: Left to right, Janelle Barbary, Joshua Richmond, Curtis Desjardins, Suzie Marks, Olivia Dalglish, Marian Haddrick.

SRC, School Captains and student Board members will take place on Friday, February 11, with the induction process to

occur on Monday, February 21.

Meetings for prep parents, Year 7 Parents and VCE

parents will occur throughout February and early March.

The major fundraiser for the school, the annual school

fete will be in March, most probably the 17th.

A twilight timeslot will occur again.

Headspace Grant Applications Open

To continue its unprecedented investment into improving the mental health of all Australians, the Federal Government is investing a further \$44 million to increase access and reduce wait times at Headspace services for young people aged 12 to 25 years.

Member for Mallee, Anne Webster, said that Australia's Headspace centres provide young people in Mallee with a single-entry point for holistic, wrap around mental health services.

"One in four young Australians are affected by a mental health illness every year, and as we continue to battle COVID-19 it's more important than ever that we prioritise mental health," Dr. Webster said.

Disruption

"The disruption to normal life caused by the COVID-19 pandemic has had profound impacts on young Australians and we are ensuring that they can access the mental health supports they may need to help them get back on track and minimise longer-term impacts.

"Young Australians know that services provided through Headspace centres are a safe place to turn to, somewhere young people can get professional help, peer support and

feel comfortable enough to tackle their challenges in a way that is right for them."

Minister for Health and Aged Care, Greg Hunt, said both mental health and suicide prevention remains one of our Government's highest priorities.

"These grants form part of the Federal Government's Headspace Demand Management and Enhancement Program — an investment of \$152 million over 7 years from 2018," Minister Hunt said.

"Through three funding rounds to date, this program has supported 28 PHNs and 86 Headspace services to reduce wait times and invest in capital and infrastructure."

The Government encourages Primary Health Networks (PHNs) across the nation to apply for up to \$1.8 million each in wait time reduction grants. In addition, grants of up to \$940,000 are available for capital and infrastructure improvements to existing Headspace services.

Advantages

Together, the grants will:

- Increase access to high quality and more timely youth-friendly mental health support.
- Enhance the quality of service experience for young people.
- Boost the physical capacity of Headspace facilities and enhance the accessibility of services through refurbishment or relocation.

Assistant Minister to the Prime Minister for Mental Health and Suicide Prevention, David Coleman, said these new grants added to the Government's significant support for headspace around the nation.

"Our Government is providing unprecedented funding and support for mental health, investing a record \$2.3 billion

in the National Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Plan," Minister Coleman said.

"There is nothing more important than the mental health of our young people. Headspace makes a real difference in the lives of young people across Australia, and this funding will help to increase access to these important services."

Beyond Blue

Australians looking for support throughout the COVID-19 pandemic can also access the Beyond Blue Coronavirus Wellbeing Support Service any time via telephone at 1800 512 348 or

online at coronavirus.beyondblue.org.au.

Anyone experiencing distress can seek immediate advice and support through Lifeline (13 11 14), Kids Helpline (1800 55 1800), or the Government's digital mental health gateway, Head to Health.

If you are concerned about suicide, living with someone who is considering suicide, or bereaved by suicide, the Suicide Call Back Service is available at 1300 659 467 or www.suicidecallbackservice.org.au.

Guidelines for grant applications are available on the GrantConnect website: www.grants.gov.au

Letter to the Editor



Rate Problems

(The Editor, "Buloke Times")

Dear Sir.— Last week as part of our ongoing RateGate campaign, I called on the Federal Government to help fix the scandalous disparity between rural/regional and metro rates.

Since the 1970s, successive Federal Governments have given annual untied grants to State Governments to distribute to Councils. That's obviously good. But within the fine print, there's two problems.

The first problem is that the Federal Government requires 30% of those grants to be allocated on the basis of population before it can be allocated on any other consideration — such as need.

That means the big metro councils which are often flushed with funds (at least in relative terms) are getting more money than they need, while the small rural/regional councils aren't getting anywhere near enough.

The second problem is the pie itself is not big enough. Not only has the quantum of the Federal Assistance Grants shrunk significantly as a proportion of GDP over time, but it was also subject to a debilitating indexation freeze by the Coalition Government between 2014 and 2017.

Despite being lobbied over many years, both the Federal Government and Federal Opposition have made no commitment to address either of these problems. It is a classic case of the big parties failing us at a Federal level, on rates.

As an Independent candidate, I will be making regional rate reform a major issue at this year's Victorian State Election. I suggest that our Federal candidates for Mallee do the same in May. Changing the game for rural and regional rates is a team effort. We all need to be pulling in the same direction.

Ali Cupper, MP,
Member for Mildura.

Building Boost for Catholic and Independent Schools

The State Government is making sure every student in Western Victoria has the infrastructure needed at school, with a huge boost to non-government schools' infrastructure across the state.

Labor Member for Western Victoria, Jaala Pulford, has announced applications are open for Round 4 of the Non-Government Schools Capital Fund, encouraging those schools to apply for support.

The Fund works alongside the non-government sector to support new schools and building upgrades to modernise facilities and increase capacity at schools, and also supports the removal of

asbestos and cladding at non-government schools.

Projects that received funding under Round 3 of the Fund include a \$3.5 million towards a new Prep to Year 4 building for Darul Ulum College of Victoria in Mickleham, \$3 million for a student learning centre at Wyndham Vale's Heatherton Christian College and \$3 million to expand and upgrade learning spaces at Sunshine's Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception Primary School.

More than one-third of Victorian students attend Catholic or independent schools, and the Labor Government is making sure all students across the state are benefitting from better school infrastructure.

In the past seven years, the Labor Government has invested more than \$10.9 billion in building new schools and more than 1,700 school upgrades, creating around 13,500 jobs in construction and associated industries.

In Memory of Georgie

(By Florence Breed)
*Once there was a Chinaman
Lived in a wooden shack;
He always wore a jolly smile
And baggy trousers black.*

*He dwelt close by an Aussie town
Far from his land of birth,
And sold the fruit and vegetables
He grew in God's good earth.*

*He always gave a happy wave
To people passing by,
And toiled in such a happy way
Beneath God's bright blue sky.*

*Town children rode upon his cart,
Pulled by his old grey horse,
He gave them apples, plums and pears,
But never charged, of course.*

*One day he walked into a dam
To catch a tasty fish,
Instead he caught a nasty cold
And nothing for his dish.*

*His humble hut had earthen floors,
He wanted not great riches,
But carried water; lived alone,
Toiled hard and dug deep ditches.*

*The local townsfolk liked him well
And Georgie loved them, too.
His sons said, "Come and stay with us,
We'll take good care of you."*

*Georgie replied, "No, no good,
New York is not for me,
'Cos Donald is the kind of place
Where I prefer to be.*

Australia's Last Chinese Market Gardener

One day in 1984 when returning from his friend's house, Georgie's cart was struck by a school-bus and the old Chinaman was thrown to the ground. He was taken to the local hospital where he was happy to be looked after by kind nurses, but later his relatives in Melbourne took him to a hostel in the city to be near them. He died in 1987, aged 102. Against his wishes, his sons in New York took his ashes from Australia to America and there he was buried in Brooklyn.

He now lies amongst many Chinese folks, but his wish

was to stay in this little town where he was the last market-gardener in Australia. Some people in Donald today will remember Georgie who lived amongst them from about 1927 until his accident in 1984. However, many local folks did not realise that he had a family in Canton and that all he earned was sent through the Hong Kong Bank for his family's needs in China. Georgie never spent money on himself – he just lived simply from selling his vegetables cheaply to the local Donald folks.

When Georgie applied for Australian citizenship in



• Georgie enjoying his home-made cherrywood pipe.

February 1960 in was revealed that his correct name was Ah Wah Ah Foo. After being interviewed by the local policeman Georgie was granted citizenship because he made it clear that he intended to stay in Australia permanently in this little town of Donald.

It is believed that Georgie first arrived in Australia with his parents in November at the age of 17 – for he was born in Canton in 1884. However, Georgie returned to China where he married and had four children, but his wife stayed in Canton. He did not come to Donald until about 1927 where he first shared a humble wooden shack with another Chinaman, who was older than Georgie and who died after falling whilst tending his vegetables.

Many Chinese came to Australia in the mid-1900s to work on the goldfields, but for some reason never brought their women with them – it seems the women were happier left behind in their villages in the rural districts of China.



• Georgie's hut, on Jeffcott Road.

Only the senior folks of Donald will still remember a lonely Chinaman who lived in their town for many years. He worked growing vegetables to sell to the locals, and he lived in a wooden hut with earthen floors until his road accident in 1984, when he was a hundred years old.

A few residents of Donald probably remember that as young children they rode upon his cart drawn by a patient old

horse and Georgie would give them fruit. Local residents were generous to the lonely Chinaman – such as Des Howley, the local grocer, who would give Georgie tobacco for his cherry-wood pipe, yet never charged him.

Another kind lady, Mrs Whittaker, gave him lunch at her house twice a week and also cooked food for him to take home.

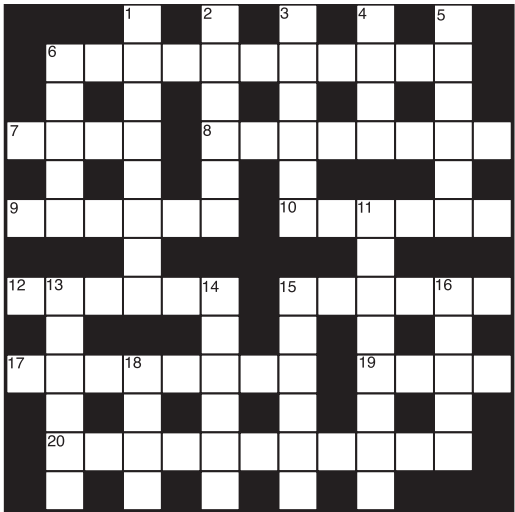
When Georgie's sons were wealthy business men in America they asked him to join them, but Georgie chose to remain in Donald with friends, rather than live with his family in New York. That well-loved Chinaman died in 1987, aged 102, and a memorial service was held in Donald for the repose of his soul, because this was the place with the people he loved.



• Georgie and his covered cart.

"Times" Crossword

QUICK PUZZLE NO. 8009



ACROSS

- 6. Firearm (11)
- 7. Rock (4)
- 8. Barrier (8)
- 9. Hut (6)
- 10. Humid (6)
- 12. Scowl (6)
- 15. Decrease (6)
- 17. Inferred (8)
- 19. Midday (4)
- 20. Cautious (11)

DOWN

- 1. House (8)
- 2. Dexterous (6)
- 3. Emergency (6)
- 4. Cat (4)
- 5. Refuge (6)
- 6. Tree (5)
- 11. Imperil (8)
- 13. Boat (6)
- 14. Save (6)
- 15. Vegetable (6)
- 16. Blow (5)
- 18. Horse (4)

• Solution next issue.

Exhibition is Opening Doors from Tomorrow

People with disabilities face a range of challenges in accessing suitable housing and is the theme of the upcoming touring exhibition, “Opening Doors – Renting for all” opening at the St. Arnaud Railway Station, Raillery Gallery, St. Arnaud, tomorrow (Saturday), at 2 p.m..

The work consists of 28 beautiful portraits of people with a disability in their home environment by Melbourne photo artist, Paul Dunn, and a collection of videos exploring their journey into the rental world by internationally award-winning filmmaker, Lawrence Johnston. Both will be in attendance at the opening. These works are also accessible on the opening doors website: <https://openingdoors.net.au>.

The aim of the exhibition is to break down discrimination and barriers to a range of housing options including access to the rental market.

The Opening Doors project was created for people with a disability and led by people with a disability – guiding them through the process of renting, whilst connecting them to information about the world of real estate.

Awareness
It also serves to raise awareness and advocate for rights and community inclusion for people with a disability.

Paul’s photography has featured at more than 16 exhibitions, including 10 solo exhibitions at leading galleries

and art centres in Melbourne. Lawrence began his career at as a film repairer at 20th Century-Fox, is a graduate of Swinburne’s Film and Television School in Melbourne, and his films have been screened and awarded at Cannes, Toronto, Berlin, Telluride, Chicago and London Film Festivals.

Endorsement
The project has been endorsed by The Real Estate Institute of Victoria, and was used in Real Estate training sessions during 2020, raising awareness among more 2000 participants from the sector.

The Opening Doors Project was commissioned by AMIDA (Action for More Independence and Dignity in Accommodation) and funded by the Victorian Government.

AMIDA is an independent advocacy organisation which advocates for good housing for people with disability. It provides advocacy to individuals, with priority given to people with an intellectual disability, and advocate for change in systems which prevent people from achieving good housing.

AMIDA strongly supports the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with a Disability and works to assert these rights and community inclusion for people with a disability.

AMIDA acknowledges that people with disability have a right to a choice of who they live with, and where they live, to good quality housing which is accessible, affordable and non-institutional.

The exhibition will continue until March 27 in the refurbished historic St. Arnaud Railway building in Queens Avenue, St. Arnaud every Friday through to Monday from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m..



• Kath, Opening Doors.

Faith on Trial

Jeremy was an extrovert university student with a heart for God and a passion for music and singing.

In the cinema released film “I Still Believe”, based on a true story, Jeremy is pictured as a young man who has “fallen” for a fellow classmate Melissa. Never mind that he’s known her only for five minutes, or that she’s involved with someone else, or that she doesn’t yet know his name!

He’s going to pursue her – and perhaps write a song about his feelings, too. “I’m Jeremy,” he tells her, awkwardly, in their first conversation. “I saw you tonight. I mean, I was watching you.” Perhaps that’s not the best “introducing himself” line but Melissa eventually warms to his innocence, his voice, and his faith. The relationship deepens and soon marriage is on the horizon but before Jeremy can propose Melissa is diagnosed with Stage 3 ovarian cancer and facing a grim prognosis.

She’s scared, yes, but she remains steadfast in her faith. “If one person’s life is changed by what I go through, it will all be worth it,” she says. For six months the cancer goes into remission and they marry. Everything seems perfect until after their

honeymoon when one morning Melissa wakes up in pain. Jeremy takes her to the hospital where they find out her cancer has returned and that nothing more can be done for her.

As Melissa grows weaker Jeremy begins to question his faith in God. Soon Melissa dies and Jeremy becomes angry at God and chooses to abandon his high profile musical and singing career. He smashes his guitar in anger and unexpectedly inside the guitar Jeremy finds a note Melissa left for him to find after her death, telling him “suffering does not destroy faith but refines it”. Her parting words in the note encourage him to “pick up your guitar” and continue writing songs. Eventually he writes a song, “I Still Believe”, about his faith in Jesus in the midst of sorrow.

I still believe in Your faithfulness, I still believe in Your truth, I still believe in Your holy Word, Even when I don’t see, I still believe.

2000 years ago Jesus said to “doubting” Thomas, one of His disciples, “Blessed are those who don’t see but

believe”. John 20:29. Thomas was an eyewitness to the resurrected Lord Jesus Christ and went through much suffering as he lived for Jesus. In fact there is suffering for all of us as we go through the journey of life on planet earth. In the beginning all was created perfectly but when humankind disobeyed our Creator the consequences of sin – including death, disease, brokenness in relationships and a Creation “groaning in travail” (Romans 8:22) has its effect upon us all.

Jeremy Camp, even in the midst of terrible grief after his wife died at 21 years of age just four months into their marriage was to discover that significant things can be wrought in times of suffering if we keep our eyes on Jesus. The Bible says: *We can rejoice, too, when we run into problems and trials, for we know that they help us develop endurance. And endurance develops strength of character and character strengthens our hope in Jesus.* Romans 5:3,4. Jeremy’s dad, Tom, said to his struggling son, “My life is full not in spite of the difficulties but because of them”.



• Bruce Stewart

Two years after Melissa’s death Jeremy picked up his guitar and before thousands of people on many occasions he sang “I Still Believe”. Many people had their faith in Jesus affirmed and others came to follow Jesus because they could see a genuine, refined faith in the life of Jeremy. Many discovered that Melissa’s words “suffering does not destroy faith but refines it” are true if we keep our eyes upon Jesus.

May this be true for each of us too as we go through difficult times in life.

Bruce Stewart

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YOUR THREE-DAY TV GUIDE Friday

ABC
6:00 News Breakfast [s] 9:00 ABC News Mornings [s] 10:00 A Dog Act: The Disappearance Of Paddy Moriarty (PG) [s] 11:10 George Clarke's Amazing Spaces [s] 12:00 ABC News At Noon [s] 1:00 Kurt Fearnley's One Plus One (PG) [s] 1:30 Midsomer Murders (M I.s) [s] 3:00 ABC News Afternoons [s] 4:00 Think Tank (PG) [s] 4:55 Stan Grant's One Plus One [s] 5:25 Hard Quiz (PG) [s] 6:00 The Drum [s] 7:00 ABC News [s] 7:30 Monty Don's American Gardens [s] – Monty goes South to explore gardens of early independence. America and learns how the history of this part of the country is still very much evident in the places and people he meets. 8:30 Midsomer Murders: For Death Prepare (PG) [s] – The Midsomer Mummies are busy preparing for their charity concert when the body of an unknown man is found in their theatre. 10:05 Mum: September (M I) [s] – As summer draws to a close, Cathy and Michael see each other for the first time in months. Maureen's in hospital and Reg waits anxiously for news. 10:35 ABC Late News [s] 10:50 Shaun Micallef's MAD AS HELL (MA15+) [s] 11:20 Q!: Siet (M I.s) [s] 11:50 Killing Eve: Nice And Neat (MA15+) [s] 12:35 rage (MA15+) [s]

ABC TV PLUS (CH22)
5:00 Children's Programs 1:30 Tish Tash 2:00 Rusty Rivets 2:35 Book Hungry Bears 3:00 Curious George 3:30 Play School 4:00 Bananas In Pyjamas 4:25 Thomas And Friends 5:00 Ona 5:30 How To Do Stuff 6:00 Log Horizon 6:05 Octonauts 6:25 Peter Rabbit 7:00 Dino Dana 7:30 Spicks And Specks (PG) 8:00 Hard Quiz (PG) 8:30 Movie: "Wild Target" (PG) (10) Stars: Bill Nighy 10:05 Doctor Who: The Tsunami Conundrum (PG) 11:00 Brassica (MA15+) 11:50 Earth 12:00 Catch Up 12:05 Log Horizon: The Shield And Freedom (PG) 9:15 Dragon Ball Super (PG) 10:00 Voltorn: Legendary Defender (PG)

ABC ME (CH23)
6:00 Children's Programs 10:35 Making Magic 12:30 Horrible Histories 1:00 Gym Stars 1:25 Mythbusters (PG) 2:10 100 Things To Do Before High School 2:35 Mortified 3:00 Art Ninja 3:25 How To Do Stuff 3:55 Log Horizon 4:00 Detention Adventure (PG) 5:00 Malory Towers (PG) 5:25 School Of Rock (PG) 6:00 Miraculous: Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir (PG) 6:30 Operation Ouch! Hospital Takeover 7:00 Movie: "Joey And Ella" (G) (21) Stars: Ashton Leigh 8:25 Sluggerra: Lightwell (PG) 8:45 Log Horizon: The Shield And Freedom (PG) 9:15 Dragon Ball Super (PG) 10:00 Voltorn: Legendary Defender (PG)

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6:00 Children's Programs 10:35 Making Magic 12:30 Horrible Histories 1:00 Gym Stars 1:25 Mythbusters (PG) 2:10 100 Things To Do Before High School 2:35 Mortified 3:00 Art Ninja 3:25 How To Do Stuff 3:55 Log Horizon 4:00 Detention Adventure (PG) 5:00 Malory Towers (PG) 5:25 School Of Rock (PG) 6:00 Miraculous: Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir (PG) 6:30 Operation Ouch! Hospital Takeover 7:00 Movie: "Joey And Ella" (G) (21) Stars: Ashton Leigh 8:25 Sluggerra: Lightwell (PG) 8:45 Log Horizon: The Shield And Freedom (PG) 9:15 Dragon Ball Super (PG) 10:00 Voltorn: Legendary Defender (PG)

ABC
6:00 rage (PG) [s] 7:00 Weekend Breakfast [s] 9:00 rage Guest Programmer (PG) [s] 10:30 rage (PG) [s] 12:00 ABC News At Noon [s] 12:30 Midsomer Murders (PG) 5:00 Malory Towers (PG) 5:25 School Of Rock (PG) 6:00 Miraculous: Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir (PG) 6:30 Operation Ouch! Hospital Takeover 7:00 Movie: "Joey And Ella" (G) (21) Stars: Ashton Leigh 8:25 Sluggerra: Lightwell (PG) 8:45 Log Horizon: The Shield And Freedom (PG) 9:15 Dragon Ball Super (PG) 10:00 Voltorn: Legendary Defender (PG) 7:00 ABC News [s] 7:30 Death In Paradise (PG) [s] – Neville is left perplexed when the Friday winner is found dead but her body then disappears. 8:30 All Creatures Great And Small (PG) [s] – Siegfried is interviewing for the job of Attending Vet at Darroby Racecourse. Meanwhile, James faces the toughest challenge of his career when he diagnoses Hugh Hulton's pedigree horse with a torsion of the bowel. 9:15 Call The Midwife (M I) [s] – Sister Hilda digs deep to give her terminally-ill patient her final wish whilst the Turners must prepare to say goodbyes to May. Fred and Reggie are keeping secrets from each other. 10:15 Father Brown: The Numbers Of The Beast (M I) [s] – The priest walks in on a man standing over the body of his dead wife, while Mrs McCarthy strikes it lucky at the church bingo with the help of a fortune teller her sister has befriended. Guest starring Niamh Cusack. 11:05 Finding Alice (M I) [s] 11:55 rage Guest Programmer (MA15+) [s]

ABC TV PLUS (CH22)
5:00 Children's Programs 1:30 Tish Tash 2:00 Rusty Rivets 2:35 Book Hungry Bears 3:00 Abby's Amazing Adventures 3:30 Play School 4:00 Bananas In Pyjamas 4:25 Thomas And Friends 5:00 Nella The Princess Knight 5:35 Luo Bao Bei 6:05 Octonauts 6:30 PJ Masks 7:05 The Deep 7:30 Spicks And Specks (PG) 8:00 Q! (M I) 8:30 Live At The Apollo (MA15+) 8:20 Whose Line Is It Anyway? (M I) 10:00 Gavin And Stacey (M I) 10:30 Insert Name Here (PG) 11:05 Schitt's Creek (PG) 11:25 The Trip To Greece (PG) 12:00 Archer (M I) 12:25 Dead Pixels (M I.s) 12:45 The Young Offenders (MA15+) 1:20 David Attenborough's Conquest Of The Skies

ABC ME (CH23)
6:00 Children's Programs 11:00 Log Horizon (PG) 11:25 Dragon Ball Super (PG) 12:15 Voltorn: Legendary Defender 12:35 Horrible Histories 1:25 Mythbusters (PG) 2:15 The Wonderful World Of Kittens 3:40 Thunderbirds Are Go 4:05 Food Investigators 5:00 Malory Towers (PG) 5:25 School Of Rock (PG) 6:00 Miraculous: Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir (PG) 6:30 Mythbusters Junior (PG) 7:20 Mindful Earth 7:35 The Strange Chores: Babysit The Mummy 8:00 Kung Fu Panda: Legends Of Awesomeness: Present Tense 8:25 Sluggerra: It Comes By Night 9:00 Hank Zipper: Anyone For A Lizard? (PG) 9:25 Deggrassi: The Next Generation: Everything Is Everything (PG)

ABC ME (CH23)
6:00 Children's Programs 11:00 Log Horizon (PG) 11:25 Dragon Ball Super (PG) 12:15 Voltorn: Legendary Defender 12:35 Horrible Histories 1:25 Mythbusters (PG) 2:15 The Wonderful World Of Kittens 3:40 Thunderbirds Are Go 4:05 Food Investigators 5:00 Malory Towers (PG) 5:25 School Of Rock (PG) 6:00 Miraculous: Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir (PG) 6:30 Mythbusters Junior (PG) 7:20 Mindful Earth 7:35 The Strange Chores: Babysit The Mummy 8:00 Kung Fu Panda: Legends Of Awesomeness: Present Tense 8:25 Sluggerra: It Comes By Night 9:00 Hank Zipper: Anyone For A Lizard? (PG) 9:25 Deggrassi: The Next Generation: Everything Is Everything (PG)

ABC
6:00 rage (PG) [s] 7:00 Weekend Breakfast [s] 10:00 Offsiders [s] 10:30 The World This Week [s] 11:00 Compass [s] 11:30 Songs Of Praise [s] 12:00 ABC News At Noon [s] 12:30 Landline Summer [s] 1:00 Finding Alice (M I) [s] 1:45 Mum: September (M I) [s] 2:15 Doc Martin: The Trial Of The Feather (PG) [s] 2:30 Aussie Inventions That Changed The World: Food Preservation [s] 4:00 Monty Don's American Gardens [s] 5:00 Dream Gardens: Kyneton Revisit [s] 5:30 Nigella At The Table [s] 6:00 Australia Remastered: Drought [s] 7:00 ABC News Sunday [s] 7:40 Muster Dogs (PG) [s] – The puppies are now six months old and are very busy developing their stalking livestock techniques and learning manners and basic calls. 8:40 Vera: Recovery (M I) [s] – The discovery of a deceased addiction support worker in the beautiful but unforgiving wilds of the national park sets Vera the challenge of investigating a deeply private woman's life. 10:10 Doc Martin: All My Trials (M I) [s] 11:00 Harrow: Mens Rea (M I.v) [s] 11:50 Midsomer Murders: Hebes Corpus (M v) [s] 1:20 Rosemary Valandon: A Sensual World (M n) [s] 1:50 rage (MA15+) [s]

ABC TV PLUS (CH22)
5:05 Children's Programs 12:40 Buddi 12:55 Twirlywoos 1:30 Tish Tash 2:00 Rusty Rivets 2:35 Book Hungry Bears 3:00 Abby's Amazing Adventures 3:30 Play School 4:00 Bananas In Pyjamas 4:25 Thomas And Friends 5:00 Nella The Princess Knight 5:35 Luo Bao Bei 6:05 Octonauts 6:25 Peter Rabbit 7:05 The Deep 7:30 Compass: Inside The Bruderhof (PG) 8:00 You Can't Ask That: Refugees (PG) 8:30 The School That Tried To End Racism (UK) (PG) 9:20 Catalyst: Urban Birds (M I) 10:20 Uncle Vanya (M I) 12:50 George Clarke's Amazing Spaces 1:40 Movie: "Wild Target" (PG) (10) Stars: Bill Nighy 3:10 ABC News Update

ABC ME (CH23)
12:00 Operation Ouch! 12:30 Horrible Histories 1:00 Gym Stars 1:25 Mythbusters (PG) 2:10 The Zoo 2:25 (s)Ruppled (PG) 3:10 The Crystal Maze 4:05 The Brilliant World Of Tom Gates 4:30 Detention Adventure (PG) 5:00 Malory Towers (PG) 5:25 School Of Rock (PG) 6:00 Miraculous: Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir: Gamer (PG) 6:30 Mythbusters Junior (PG) 7:20 Mindful Earth: Inspiring And And Sea 7:35 The Strange Chores: Get Back The Monster Hand 8:00 Kung Fu Panda: Legends Of Awesomeness: Royal Pan 8:25 Sluggerra: Upgrade (PG) 9:05 Hank Zipper 9:25 Deggrassi: The Next Generation: Sparks Will Fly (Part 1) (PG) 9:45 rage (PG)

PRIME7
6:00 Sunrise [s] – Wake up to a better breakfast with Samantha Armytage and David Koch for all the latest news, sport and weather. 9:00 The Morning Show [s] – Join Larry Emdur and Kylie Kilgus each morning for a variety of segments on the latest news, entertainment and other hot topics. 11:00 Program On Air (PG) [s] 12:00 Olympic Winter Games Beijing 2022: Pre Show "Live" [s] 5:00 The Chase Australia (PG) [s] – Hosted by Larry Emdur, The Chase is a general knowledge race where players must ensure they stay one step ahead of the Chaser, some of the finest quiz brains in Australia. 6:00 Seven News [s] – Seven News live and comprehensive coverage of breaking news and local, national and international top stories, plus sport, finance and weather updates. 7:00 Better Homes And Gardens [s] – Joh and Charlie visit Rosedale Farm and give you some home styling tips. Adam renovates a home entry area. Karen makes a raised garden bed and Charlie chills in the main. 8:30 The Front Bar: Winter Edition [s] – Join Sam Pang, Mick Molloy and Andy Maher as they share a laugh about the AFL world and catch up with stars of Australian Football. 10:00 Olympic Winter Games Beijing 2022: Countdown To Opening Ceremony "Live" [s] 11:00 Olympic Winter Games Beijing 2022: Opening Ceremony "Live" [s] – Join Seven for exclusive coverage of the Winter Olympic Games, live from Beijing. 1:30 Home Shopping

7TWO (CH72)
6:00 Home Shopping 6:30 Travel Oz: Legendary Pacific Coast/ South Australian Food And Wine (PG) 8:00 Harry's Practice 8:30 Million Dollar Minute 9:30 The Great Australian Doornet (PG) 10:00 Charlie Luxton's Homes By The Sea (PG) 1:00 Million Dollar Minute 2:00 Last Chance Learners (PG) 2:30 Sons And Daughters (PG) 4:30 RSPCA Animal Rescue 5:00 Escape To The Country: East Devon 6:00 Bargain Hunt: Hungerford 11:30 Rabbits! Australia (PG) 8:30 Charlie Luxton's Homes By The Sea (PG) 1:00 Million Dollar Minute 2:00 Last Chance Learners (PG) 2:30 Sons And Daughters (PG) 4:30 RSPCA Animal Rescue 5:00 Escape To The Country: East Devon 6:00 Bargain Hunt: Hungerford 11:30 Rabbits! Australia (PG) 8:30 Charlie Luxton's Homes By The Sea (PG) 1:00 Million Dollar Minute 2:00 Last Chance Learners (PG) 2:30 Sons And Daughters (PG) 4:30 RSPCA Animal Rescue 5:00 Escape To The Country: East Devon 6:00 Bargain Hunt: Hungerford 11:30 Rabbits! 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Avon Plains Tackles Rabbit Numbers

Don't Wait to Act, Warns CFA

Agriculture Victoria Biosecurity Officers are undertaking property inspections in the Avon Plains area to support the Avon Plains-Banyena Landcare Group and broader community with rabbit management.

Agriculture Victoria Biosecurity Officer, Josh Howard, said the economic and environmental impact of rabbits in the south-west region has been a problem for many years.

"The impact of rabbits in the Avon Plains area, particularly around the Avon Plains Lakes, is of particular concern," he said.

The Avon Plains-Banyena Landcare Group recently received funding from the Victorian Rabbit Action Network to implement a Rabbit Buster Program involving two community workshops, a survey of the area and a rabbit action plan.

Workshop

"Agriculture Victoria staff presented information at a workshop in 2021 to discuss best practice rabbit management with interested community members.

"The project will include 66 properties and 24 roadsides in the Avon Plains area surrounding Lake Batyo Catyo, Walkers Lake, Hollands Lake and Hancocks Lake.

"All public and private land within the designated project area will be inspected for the presence of rabbits," said Mr Howard, adding that the best rabbit control results are achieved when landowners work together and implement management simultaneously.

"During the inspections, we will discuss the project with landholders, provide information to assist with rabbit control specific to each property and comprehensively map areas of rabbit activity," he said.

"Best practice rabbit management involves control techniques such as baiting and

ripping, and they become more effective this time year because the rabbits are more likely to eat bait, and soil is more friable and better for ripping.

Responsibility

"Under Section 20 of the Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994 (CaLP Act) landowners have a responsibility to prevent the spread of, and as far as possible eradicate, established pest animals.

"This ensures pest animals don't adversely affect agricultural production on neighbouring farms or impact on the natural environment.

For further information regarding rabbit biology and control techniques visit the Agriculture Victoria website at agriculture.vic.gov.au or call our Customer Service Centre on 136 186.

More than half of all Victorians living in areas at high risk of bushfire believe they will definitely get an official warning if threatened by a bushfire, a CFA survey has revealed.

CFA's Bushfire Community Survey, undertaken annually since 2009-'10, also showed more than a third (36%) expected they would be told when to leave if threatened by a bushfire, meaning many Victorians could be leaving it too late to act.

CFA Chief Officer, Jason Heffernan, said while emergency services are well prepared and Victoria has an effective integrated warning system, including the VicEmergency app and emergency broadcasters, there may be some circumstances when Victorians may not get a warning.

"Fires can spread within minutes," Chief Officer Heffernan said.

"On hot, dry and windy days fires can start quickly and threaten lives and homes. You need to be prepared and paying attention to the weather conditions ahead of time. The community needs to know their triggers and use their senses such as sight and smell as well as their common sense to enact their fire plan.

"Grassfires are prevalent this season and can move at speeds of up to 25km per hour and jump highways."

While this year's fire season outlook indicates a lower risk of prolonged bushfires, grass fires remain a high risk across the state, after strong rainfall and fuel growth during spring and summer.

"Do not drive into or through high risk areas on hot, dry, windy days," said Chief Officer Heffernan.

"Plan an alternate route or delay your travel, if possible. Those living in or visiting regional Victoria should monitor conditions every day and have a bushfire safety plan in place."

The survey also showed nearly one in five (17%) believe they will definitely get help from CFA if impacted by bushfire, while more than a third (35%) believe they are likely to.

Mission

"CFA's mission is to save lives and property and of course we will do everything

we can to respond to everyone who needs us, but there are times during major bushfires when we simply can't get a truck to every house," Chief Officer Heffernan said.

"People need a plan – exactly what are you going to do for your family, loved ones, pets and other animals if a fire occurs and a fire truck may not be able to get there? If you have a plan, you can act to survive."

Information

Victorians should know where to find the best information to stay safe and never rely on just one source of information.

Victoria's integrated warning system includes the Vic Emergency website, app and social media channels, VicEmergency Hotline 1800 226 226, emergency broadcasters including ABC radio, Sky News TV, commercial radio and select community radio stations.

Warnings are issued when an incident is occurring, and you need to act. Make sure you understand the three levels of warnings and additional messages such as "Evacuate Now":

- Advice – An incident is occurring or has occurred. Access information and monitor conditions.
- Warning (Watch & Act) – An emergency is developing nearby. Conditions are changing and you need to act now to protect yourself and your family.
- Emergency Warning – You are in imminent danger and need to act now.
- Evacuation – An evacuation is recommended or procedures are in place to evacuate.

Cricket Tomorrow

Nothing short of a miracle could unseat any of Wimmera Mallee Cricket's top four "A" grade sides.

In "B" grade, however, six of the eight teams are still in the running for a finals berth, with four home-and-away rounds still to be played.

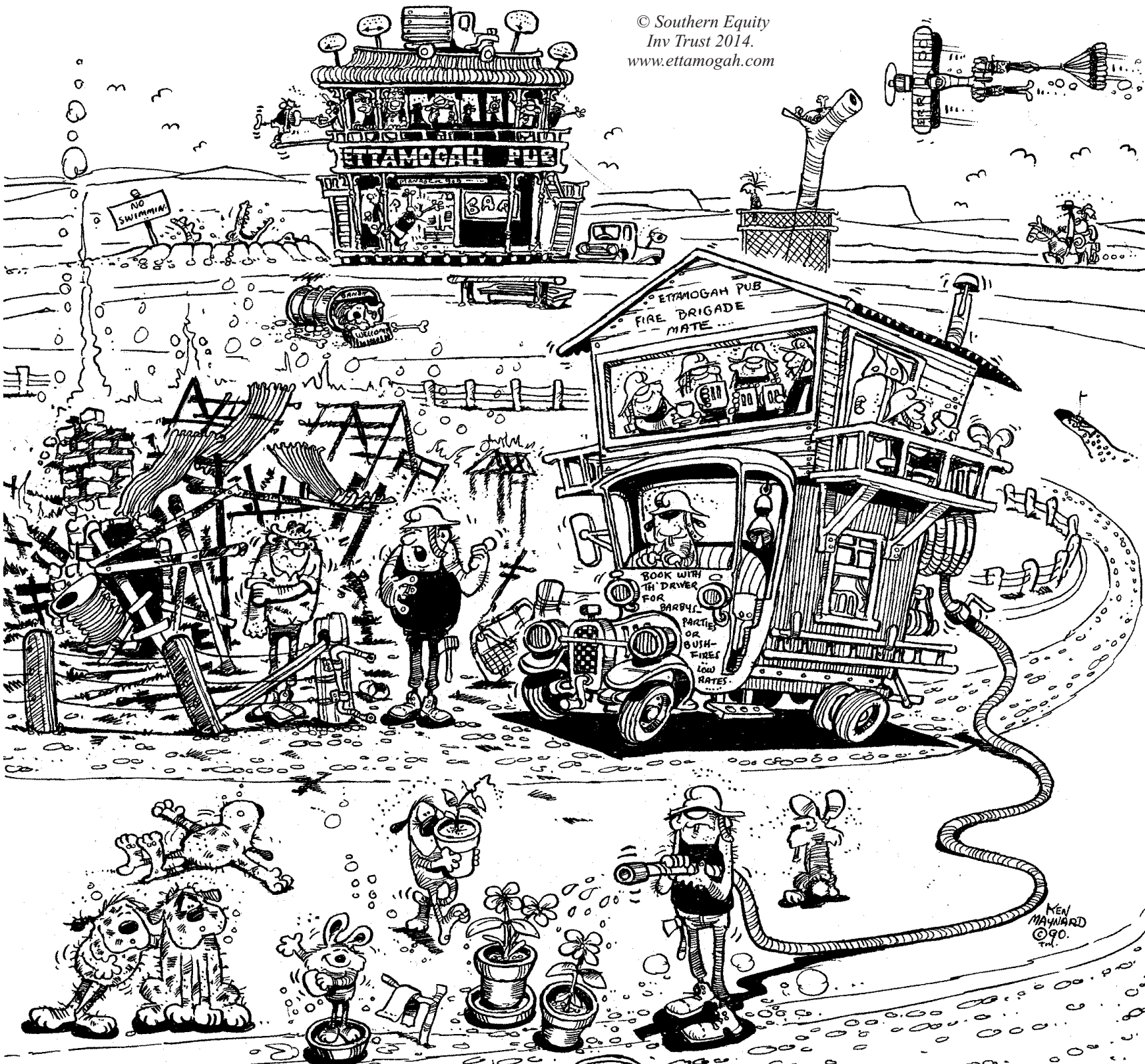
Facing top side, St. Arnaud, tomorrow, fourth-placed Donald can take some comfort in the fact that it has a 15-point lead over fifth-placed Birchip, one month out from the semi-finals.

Round 11 will see Brim Kellalac Sheep Hills – only a small percentage behind the ladder leader – playing sixth-placed Marnoo, while at Wycheproof, Jeffcott will be striving not only to hold third spot, but also to build sufficient percentage to challenge for a place even higher.

In "B" grade, it will be St. Mary's (first) versus Jeffcott (fourth), at the Jeffcott ground, Birchip (second) will meet Southern Mallee Giants (sixth) at Hopetoun, Watchem (eighth) will be at home to Brim K.S.H. (seventh), and St. Arnaud (fifth) will travel to Charlton (third).

The Ettamogah Pub Mob

© Southern Equity Inv Trust 2014.
www.ettamogah.com



"Fair dinkum mate ... when someone dropped in to th' pub last night and said you were having a housewarming ... we didn't know your house was on fire!"

“Tableau” at the Hive Gallery

Linda Gallus is an artist who is fascinated and endlessly inspired by rural Victoria. In fact, for the month of February, her current work will be on display in the Hive Gallery in Ocean Grove, featuring a painting of the Stick Shed in Murtoa.

Following this exhibition, Linda will be doing an art residency at Rainbow in April, when she will work on her next series of paintings. Already she has been fortunate enough to have been invited to have a solo show next year at the Mildura Arts Centre, featuring this new series of works.

This series is to be called “Finding the Wimmera” and will feature paintings based on the locations in the Wimmera where artist Sidney Nolan painted his Wimmera series. Nolan was based in Dimboola, where Linda’s great-grandfather managed the farm shop. Nolan used the shop next door as his studio during his posting there in World War II. In this way her family and Sidney Nolan are linked, which inspired her to use Nolan’s subject matter, interpreting with her own style, which is very different to Nolan’s.

Linda’s Artistic Style

Artist Linda Gallus has always found old structures and ancient buildings intriguing. She enjoys her drives around rural Victoria, discovering interesting farm buildings and beautiful rural scenes of animals and birds. Strong lines and shadows, created by repetition and dramatic perspective, often inspire her to create a personal response in a unique and original way, often adding animals, birds and humans to the scene to create a story and to give a sense of scale to the scene.

Rural Victoria holds endless inspiration for Linda, and she enjoys recording pieces of its history in glimpses and snippets, focusing on shapes, colours, and perspective. Her paintings usually depict a real place with a story to tell, using strong shapes to give the work a dramatic, contemporary feel. Alongside the workings of these

places, lots of paraphernalia is usually scattered throughout the scene. The graceful old machines and structures hold on to an important part of Victoria’s early history.

Linda will often use a “bird’s eye” view of the scene which adds mystery and intrigue. She sees wonderful buildings, structures, birds and animals in her adventures around Victoria, and likes to add another aspect to the story – a surreal quality or her own quirky, amusing elements.

Inspirational Scenes

It is interesting to learn more about the inspiration for the scenes she captures, when describing her first visit to the Stick Shed, she says, “I was blown away by the enormity of the timber poles and the length of the building. It is cathedral like!”

Linda goes on to explain the challenge it was to paint it – lots of measuring to get the correct perspective and the addition of dogs to give a sense of scale. Perhaps the building isn’t exactly the same as the real thing, but as an artist her aim was to give the viewer a similar experience to the one she had the very first time she saw it. A feeling of WOW!

“The dogs weren’t even there that day,” said Linda, “they belong to a friend of mine and are my little pals, so they were perfect in size, shape and colour.”

Billy Goat Hill was inspired by a particular farm Linda Gallus passed many years ago when, to her amazement there were goats all over this unique little hill of trees in the centre of a paddock. Perhaps it was formed when the land was levelled for cropping and trees grew from the seeds

pushed up into the pile of soil. She regretted not taking a photo at the time, as there were many occasions when she drove past and the goats just weren’t there. Very recently she drove past it again and was so thrilled to see the goats had returned; she just had to paint this scene.

Blue Stone Farm was so fascinating; it has a rather strange quality to it which intrigued Linda at the time she first saw it.

“I think it was the blue stone buildings and the bits and pieces around the farm such as the old well, the old cars, the gates, etcetera,” she said, “I have changed it quite a bit to make it look a bit more ‘lived in’ than in reality. I added in the white cat, and the man with his dog walking over the field to check on his bees. I wanted to tell a story, so I orchestrated the placement of the elements, the perspective and the rich colours.”

Coming Exhibits

Those three paintings featured on this page are just a sample of what is on display at the Hive Gallery, 1/41 Smithton Grove, Ocean Grove, for the month of February; Friday to Sunday 10-4p.m. or by appointment 0417 116 216.

For more information visit the website thehiveocean-grove.com.au.

In April, 2023, Linda will have a new collection on show at the Mildura Arts Centre featuring many scenes from the Wimmera.

For more information closer to the date, visit the website at milduraartscentre.com.au.

Funding to Make Local Schools More Inclusive

The State Government is supporting more Victorian schools to build inclusive indoor and outdoor learning spaces and playgrounds to better support students with disabilities and additional needs.

As the 2022 school year begins, Member for Western Victoria, Jaala Pulford, announced applications for Round Eight of the Inclusive Schools Fund are now open to help government schools in Western Victoria to create fully inclusive and enjoyable spaces for all students.

The Inclusive Schools Fund helps government schools better cater for the social and educational needs of young people with disability or additional needs – and since the Labor Government initiated the program in 2015, the fund has supported more than 340 creative projects across the state.

Under the previous round of the Inclusive Schools Fund, 36 schools secured support for inclusive learning spaces and playgrounds, with a total investment of \$6.6 million.

The Victorian Budget 2021/’22 delivered an extra \$10 million for the fund, on top of an investment of \$20 million in the Victorian Budget 2020/’21 – bringing the total pool to \$70 million and supporting an ongoing pipeline of improved spaces for

children with additional needs.

“Every child deserves the opportunity to fully participate, learn, develop and succeed at school – and the Inclusive Schools Fund is a key part of the Labor Government’s promise to make government schools inclusive for everyone,” said Ms Pulford.

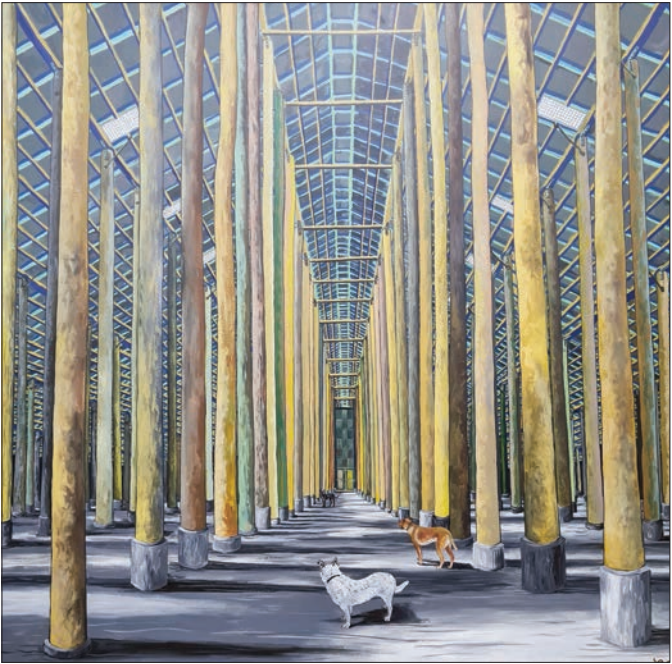
“In the past seven years, the Government has invested more than \$10.9 billion in building new schools and more than 1,700 school upgrades, creating around 13,500 local jobs in construction and associated industries.”

Your Blood is Worth Bottling

If you are visiting Ballarat or Bendigo and have a bit of time to spare, a trip to the Blood Bank would be a very rewarding experience.

You will need to book, by phoning 13 14 95.

 Australian Red Cross
BLOOD SERVICE



• The Stick Shed.



• Billy Goat Hill.



• Blue Stone Farm.

For More Than One Million Students . . . A Safe Start to School

The 2022 school year is now under way, with Victorian students back in the classroom benefitting from key COVIDSafe measures to keep schools open and safe – including students at the State Government’s 14 brand-new schools.

Minister for Education, James Merlino, officially opened the new Port Melbourne Secondary College on Monday, welcoming its first Year 7 students who join more than one million students across the state – including 77,500 new Preps starting their school journey – heading to school for the year.

Port Melbourne Secondary College is one of 14 new schools the Government has opened in 2022 as part of its work to deliver 100 new schools by 2026 – with 48 of those schools now open for students and families in Victoria’s fastest-growing areas.

World-Class

The world-class new vertical school will cater for 1100 students – with facilities like a fabrication lab and robotics workshop, 200-seat lecture theatre, gymnasium with competition-grade basketball and netball court and outdoor art and learning terraces, giving local students the best learning opportunities.

The school has a strong focus on STEAM subjects (science, technology, engineering, arts and maths) and also includes Learning Resource Centre spaces that can be used by the wider community in its design – which honours the area’s strong maritime history.

COVIDSafe Measures

Students, staff and school communities across Victoria have returned to school to a full suite of COVIDSafe measures to make sure the classroom is as safe as possible – with surveillance testing, improved ventilation, high rates of vaccination and comprehensive workforce planning in place to minimise disruption to learning.

More than 6 million rapid antigen tests will be delivered by today for the first fortnight of surveillance testing, helping to stop the spread of coronavirus in schools and early childhood settings before it reaches the classroom.

This surveillance testing is strongly recommended for all

primary and secondary school students and staff, twice-weekly at home before school, while students and staff at specialist schools are recommended to test five days each week due to the higher risk of severe illness for medically vulnerable children.

Air Purification

All 51,000 air purification devices have arrived in government and low-fee non-government schools in time for the beginning of term, helping remove potentially infectious particles from high-risk areas of schools – while more than 300 shade sails are already under construction, helping more classes learn safely outdoors.

The pool of inactive or retired teachers and school staff, and final year teaching students, has seen more than 346 teachers and 28 principals ready to be employed for short-term stints at schools as required – reducing disruption to students even in the case of COVID-19-related absences.

History Revealed in Wycheproof Clean-up

A treasure trove of historical newspaper clippings dating back to 1932 has been uncovered during a recent clean up of a property in Wycheproof.

The property having been previously owned by Wycheproof identity, David “Pop” Denney, the new owners are Andrew and Ceri Jones, whose sons, Eric amd Rowan are renovating the property.

During the clean-up, pages of “The Herald” and “The Weekly Times” came to light, and caught the attention of Eric and Rowan’s grandfather, Alf “Swede” Milne, who thought there might be some items of interest that could be shared, and forwarded them on to the “Times”.

Closer inspection of the pages proved very interesting reading, and provide an insight to many aspects of life at that time, including in the areas of agriculture and sport.

In the “Weekly Times” edition of January 2, 1932, under the heading, “Conditions and Happenings in the Agricultural Areas of the State”, several north west Vic-

torian districts received a mention, as follows:

- The prolific pasture growth is welcomed by farmers in the Bridgewater district, who, owing to the low price of wheat last season, put in a much smaller acreage of that cereal and stocked heavily with sheep or cattle.

- The wheat crop generally is light, because of an excessive rainfasll during seeding, but some farms in North Bridgewater up to 12 bags an acre are being received.

- Ten thousand sheep recently changed hands at a special sale at Horsham. Lambs brought 9/- to 10/8; three year old and four year old ewes, 13/-; five year old ewes, 10/6; merino wethers, to 9/1; two-tooth ewes and wethers, 11/8; five year old crossbred ewes, 12/1; five year old store merino wethers, 8/-; aged merino ewes, 6/-; small lambs, 5/7.

- At a meeting of the Borung Shire, dissatisfaction was expressed with the recent valuation, and it was decided that another one be carried out. It will be ready by the end of May.

- A start has been made stripping wheat at Wail, near Horsham. Crops have seldom looked better, and several 11- and 12-bag averages are expected — from the Free Gallipoli variety.

- The wheat haravest at Brim, near Warracknabeal, is estimated at upwards of 200,000 bags. Deliveries at the railway station to last week totalled 17,000 bags.

- Mr R. C. F. Gniel, of Walpeup, who conducts experimental plots for the Department of Agriculture, predicts a serious mouse plague in the North-Western Mallee in February or March. Mice, he states, are very plentiful and never before has he

seen paddocks riddled with so many burrows. Farmers are strongly advised to take steps to protect their hay reserves from the ravages of the pest.

- From December 14 to December 19, 11,374 bags of wheat, 890 of oats, and 270 of barley passed over the Nullawil weighbridge.

- A Sea Lake farmer who rented and cropped land for three years with little success, decided not to lease the farm this year. The new tenant intended using it for grazing, but left the self-sown crop to mature, and he will harvest more than 5000 bags from 500 acres. This will give him a return of nearly £2,000.

- The first load of this season’s wheat at Jackson’s near Rupanyup, was delivered by Mr T. Carra. It was an exceptionally good sample of Nabawa, taken from a crop which averaged 14 bags an acre.

And from the “Herald”, of Friday evening, January 1,

1932, come the Test cricket scores from the match between Australia and South Africa.

The Australian team comprised W.M. Woodfull (captain), W.H. Ponsford, D.G. Bradman, S.J. McCabe, A.F. Kippax, K.E. Rigg, E.L. a’Beckett, C.V. Grimmett, T. Wall, H. Ironmonger, W.A. Oldfield and J. Fingleton (12th.).

And for South Africa: H.B. Cameron (captain), D.P.B. Morkel, J.A.J. Christy, B. Mitchell, H.W. Taylor, K. Viljoen, Q. McMillan, S. Curnow, A.J. Bell, N.H. Quinn, C.L. Vincent, and E.L. Dalton (12th.)

The headline reads:

South African Batsmen Over-Cautious in Third Test

“Grimmett’s Bowling Treated with Greatest Respect”

“Morkel and Cameron in Useful Partnership”

Australia	
First Innings	
Woodfull, c. Cameron, b. Bell . .	7
Ponsford, b. Bell	7
Bradman, c. Cameron, b. Quinn . .	2
Kippax, c. Bell, b. Quinn	52
McCabe, c. Morkel, b. Bell	22
Rigg, c. Mitchell, b. Bell	68
a’Beckett, c. Mitchell, b. Quinn .	6
Oldfield, c. Vincent, b. Quinn . .	0
Grimmett, c. Morkel, b. Bell . . .	9
Wall, not out	6
Ironmonger, run out	12
Extras	7
Total	198
Fall of wickets: 11, 16, 25, 74, 135, 143, 143, 173, 179, 198.	

Bowling: Bell 26.1 overs, 9 maid-ens, 5/69, Quinn 31-13-4/42, Morkel 3-0-0/12, Vincent 12-1-0/32, McMillan 2-0-0/22, Christy 3-0-0/14. Bell bowled one no-ball and Morkel one wide.

SOUTH AFRICA	
First Innings	
Mitchell, c. McCabe, b. Wall . . .	17
Christy, c. McCabe, b. Ironmonger	16
Curnow, b. Grimmett	47
Taylor, l.b.w., Grimmett	11
Morkel, l.b.w., b Ironmonger . . .	33
Cameron, not out	27
Viljoen, not out	0
Extras	12
Five wickets for	163
Fall of wickets: 39, 79, 89, 108, 163.	

Available bowling figures up to lunch: Wall 14-4-1/29, a’Beckett 4-1-0/6, Ironmonger 14-10-1/11, Grimmett 24-8-1/38, McCabe 7-2-0/6.

Donald Rainfall Chart

The rainfall recordings for the years 1871 to 1884 were taken by the late James Henderson of Banyenong (about three miles from the Donald P.O.). The official record of the rainfall at Donald was kept for a period of 37 years by the late W.G. Pearse until March 1926 when the recordings were taken at the Post Office, and from 1966 the meteorological recordings were made at the Donald Water Trust Reserve. Geoff Rye took the readings for several years, followed by Harold Flett and Jono Ingram. Susie Burke now carries out that duty.

YEAR	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	TOTAL
1878	0	56	119	48	13	40	42	26	28	29	37	2	439
1879	8	10	0	12	47	20	45	30	33	43	34	14	294
1880	5	100	38	52	28	41	14	19	68	40	0	7	413
1881	23	0	41	23	41	47	14	25	5	18	33	11	280
1882	0	3	1	56	52	15	52	34	8	52	47	20	339
1883	0	20	38	15	53	47	46	65	44	37	19	33	414
1884	28	0	70	28	43	56	0	35	52	18	11	34	374
1885	6	27	26	13	24	40	34	32	60	12	2	51	327
1886	92	16	4	5	22	8	20	79	47	36	33	23	328
1887	8	30	6	45	11	80	46	24	26	61	180	61	577
1888	24	14	16	6	57	24	26	31	39	20	14	19	290
1889	57	19	2	143	74	73	11	82	50	59	78	0	645
1890	18	48	71	74	47	74	70	54	38	31	47	27	599
1891	12	0	22	76	25	46	31	20	17	64	40	25	379
1892	8	1	7	46	69	61	53	51	43	40	46	22	446
1893	1	1	12	51	151	69	48	53	37	59	69	7	558
1894	5	0	46	15	38	51	38	68	47	143	10	95	554
1895	35	0	18	45	6	15	39	47	38	26	14	28	311
1896	17	42	41	61	41	17	17	16	36	8	20	14	329
1897	85	6	15	13	26	35	28	66	31	23	7	2	336
1898	1	36	4	39	36	99	47	24	35	23	10	34	388
1899	25	31	41	31	30	79	5	22	12	23	39	3	340
1900	10	0	38	40	47	50	8	75	32	9	15	20	343
1901	9	71	16	33	8	56	29	35	54	35	16	11	372
1902	13	4	42	0	5	29	10	10	14	23	5	132	289
1903	2	12	15	75	39	59	81	23	101	42	66	22	536
1904	46	36	13	17	38	35	58	30	20	50	12	1	356
1905	21	18	0	51	43	54	50	13	36	57	11	2	356
1906	0	7	55	8	113	59	43	38	52	34	63	8	480
1907	0	28	7	28	30	27	53	47	23	8	34	43	327
1908	6	19	12	0	46	60	13	39	64	58	13	7	337
1909	16	16	55	35	73	97	44	120	18	17	18	14	523
1910	54	0	90	8	51	49	77	35	67	28	35	20	513
1911	4	171	41	7	52	41	29	16	66	21	2	28	477
1912	0	22	21	4	4	63	48	28	86	8	39	63	387
1913	3	11	70	20	42	10	19	32	57	47	17	21	348
1914	13	2	14	46	11	14	17	8	6	2	25	30	187
1915	18	13	0	16	25	74	54	83	82	32	13	6	416
1916	20	4	1	14	16	75	51	86	107	48	42	38	501
1917	44	57	32	13	39	31	98	73	76	74	36	19	590
1918	11	40	39	39	87	38	25	41	8	24	5	8	364
1919	2	100	32	6	55	22	24	23	43	21	5	41	373
1920	11	0	13	8	57	39	54	105	63	33	28	28	440
1921	37	16	67	7	57	52	34	57	94	38	46	32	535
1922	18	30	1	11	58	39	24	34	73	33	3	38	362
1923	8	1	0	0	48	125	105	30	30	28	9	28	411
1924	6	77	64	8	19	43	9	41	64	49	84	16	480
1925	23	30	26	8	43	40	25	14	45	5	23	2	284
1926	3	2	4	51	66	76	39	56	21	22	1	12	353
1927	17	16	7	1	48	21	45	52	20	75	14	10	323
1928	51	81	65	13	16	36	28	5	35	55	0	3	385
1929	9	34	29	26	14	34	7	30	9	15	15	28	249
1930	0	17	3	15	57	9	53	40	17	95	30	145	478
1931	6	0	35	50	60	104	31	25	40	6	79	5	439
1932	0	50	42	63	22	39	42	59	29	27	12	12	398
1933	40	0	11	44	58	27	77	38	37	19	84	62	497
1934	12	28	4	33	0	7	42	29	30	85	44	10	324
1935	11	2	30	40	20	32	67	34	73	67	3	23	401
1936	81	1	7	7	38	29	103	44	10	49	5	71	446
1937	43	14	7	1	31	23	16	48	26	97	11	57	373
1938	35	21	1	22	3	38	58	12	7	4	10	0	208
1939	15	78	9	79	50	38	31	68	21	12	68	3	470
1940	30	4	3	39	12	8	27	8	24	7	17	20	196
1941	37	4	43	21	6	54	56	21	79	50	28	11	410
1942	27	5	18	35	61	51	31	90	37	53	39	17	463
1943	11	17	2	18	17	35	40	36	38	19	9	6	249
1944	8	11	7	38	33	6	30	1	8	23	16	26	205
1945	8	38	4	1	23	83	35	51	17	28	21	8	318
1946	73	60	36	12	38	50	55	33	21	19	20	16	433
1947	3	25	60	26	8	54	64	31	30	77	47	48	473
1948	1	5	2	45	50	56	28	22	26	87	22	24	367
1949	3	86	22	1	41	12	35	12	30	81	43	6	373
1950	0	69	76	16	80	16	34	40	52	37	25	15	460
1951	18	31	0	29	51	64	54	52	14	53	8	17	393
1952	39	18	23	37	86	77	22	34	28	64	58	18	504

Monthly Precipitation Record Totals (from Bureau of Meteorology)													
Mean	29.4	22.1	21.2	24.5	38.2	35.8	38.1	41.6	38.6	36.0	30.5	26.4	
Median	20.6	12.8	13.7	15.80	35.8	35.0	37.0	38.6	28.4	30.8	26.5	18.1	

Boort Surge Continues

A fortnight after knocking off ladder leader Korong Vale, followed up by a win over Charlton, Boort moved into third place on North Central Playing Area’s Midweek pennant ladder with a resounding victory over fellow finals hopeful, Wedderburn, in Tuesday’s round 15.

With three rounds to be played, Boort will be looking to extend its winning run up to the finals.

Nineteen points separate current ladder leader, Wycheproof (95), and seventh-placed Donald Golf (76), with competition for a finals berth really heating up.

The next fortnight will sort out the contenders from the hopefuls, starting next Tuesday, when Wycheproof hosts St. Arnaud, Korong Vale (92) visits Charlton, Donald Golf (76 points) hosts Boort (90), and Wedderburn (79) takes on St. Arnaud Country Club.

Teams still to have a bye over the next three weeks may have their chances impacted, including Donald (currently fourth with 85 points but sitting out Tuesday’s round).

On Tuesday, Wycheproof accounted for Donald Golf by 26 shots, and bagged 10 points to leapfrog Korong Vale (which had the bye) into top spot.

Boort made short work of Wedderburn, led by Laurie Maxted’s rink taking advantage of Laurie Witham’s “let down” after winning North Central’s singles title two days earlier, to record a second consecutive big win. (Bowls is a game that can bring you back to earth with a thud.)

St. Arnaud Country Club enjoyed a rare success, at Charlton’s expense, but wasn’t able to extricate itself from ninth place in the pecking order.

And Donald suffered a major setback to its finals aspirations, running into a strong St. Arnaud line-up that included a number of the

club’s top Division 1 skippers and bowlers.

Details:
Wycheproof 85-10 d. Donald Golf 59-2.

Lynette Nicholls, Shirley McKenna, Lorraine Milburn, Jono Grylls (s) 13 lost to Joyce Hollis, Enid Brasier, George Wood, Pam Rollinson (s) 30.

Betty Taylor, Carol Jones, Pauline Gardner, Jeannie Grylls (s) 39 d. Marilyn Frank, Mary Murray, Wayne Gniel, Margaret Kelly (s) 15.

Andrea Coatsworth, Jason McKay, Alan Jones, Dale Groves (s) 33 d. Lynette Borden, Sue Donnellon, Colleen Raynes, Brenda Dixon (s) 14.

Boort 99-10 d. Wedderburn 48-2.

Lynette Cameron, Phyl Baker, Jo Maxted, Laurie Maxted (s) 39 d. Helen Stephenson, Fay Lockhart, Neville White, Laurie Witham (s) 12.

Pamela Gould, Tania Noles, Graeme Gardner, Thelma Moresi (s) 36 d. Robina Little, Glenda Hunter, Andrew Caserta, Ruth Hall (s) 10.

Lorna Gardner, Margaret Nelson, Ian Mercer, Kevin Depiazza (s) 26 lost to Sandra Steel, Lance Standfield, Bob Passalick, Ian Hall (s) 26.

St. Arnaud Country Club 74-10 d. Charlton 67-2.

Faye Rodger, Betty McDonald, Lyn Moulday, Rhonda Marchment (s) 20 d. Colin Stewart, Neil Cossar, Gary Bateson, Lynne Southwell (s) 19.

Dianne Fullarton, Patricia Goode, Sue Wright, Amanda Marland (s) 25 lost to Eily Rosewall, Brian Patton, Doug Gretgrix, Kevin Willey (s) 26.

Yvonne Nevill, Yvonne Templar, Rhonda Pole, Colleen Bond (s) 29 d. Greg Wain, Diane Roberts, Dale McCallum, Richard Porter (s) 22.

Donald 55-2 lost to St. Arnaud 91-10.

Peter Wyllie, Alison McEwen, Beth Hollis, Lindy Morgan (s) 21 lost to Heather Stevenson, Lynette Arbuckle, Thomas Amos, Colin Marchment (s) 24.

Ev Adams, Luke Kelly, Marion McEwen, Margaret Quick (s) 23 d. Diane Ostarcevic, Margaret McRae, Sandra McIntyre, Graham Simpson (s) 18.

Brenda Brennan, Joan Wood, Beryl Milne, Bill Hegarty (s) 11 lost to Gary Smith, Gary Shiners, Maurie Wood, Phil McRae (s) 49.

Correction

Sincere apologies for a mix up in the midweek pennant results of the Charlton v. Boort games in last Friday’s “Times”, with the big winners on the day being the combination of Alan Gould, Phyl Baker, Jo Maxted and Laurie Maxted, with a scoreline of 41 to 14.

In the interest of recording the correct scores, the rink results were as follows:

Eily Rosewall, Brian Patton, Doug Gretgrix, Kevin Willey (s) 20 d. Gillian Tweddle, Margaret Nelson, Tania Noles, Ken Strachan (s) 17.

Joo Ong, John Headon, Dale McCallum, Richard Porter (s) 21 d. Lorna Gardner, Pamela Gould, Graeme Gardner, Thelma Moresi (s) 13.

Diane Roberts, Neil Cossar, Gary Bateson, Lynne Southwell (s) 14 lost to Alan Gould, Phyl Baker, Jo Maxted, Laurie Maxted (s) 41.

Birchip Leads at Half-way Mark

At the halfway mark of Tyrrell Playing Area’s pennant season, Birchip is a clear leader in Division 1.

In Division 2, Quambatook and Birchip are neck-and-neck at the top of the order.

While in Midweek pennant, Woomelang and Birchip are the leaders.

Results of last weekend’s round 6:

Division 1 Sea Lake lost to Woome- lang by 51 shots to 74.

N. Watson 11 lost to R. Malcolm 27, A. Louttit 23 lost to M. Keenan 30, R. Stacey 17 drew with G. Symes 17.

Culgoa lost to Birchip by 71 shots to 73.

T. Gravestocks 28 d. R. Kemp 16, P. Brook 27 lost to W. Clark 30, P. Loughran 16 lost to K. Reid 27.

Berriwillock defeated Quambatook by 92 shots to 49.

T. Emonson 37 d. C. Man- ners 12, M. Ryan 22 lost to G. McKissack 24, S. Wight 33 d. D. Williams 13.

Ladder			
	Pts	Shots Up	%
Birchip	66	211	164.1
Berriwillock	37	42	111.1
Quambatook	35	-54	88.1
Woomelang	29	-47	88.4
Sea Lake	28	-115	74.8
Culgoa	21	-37	91.4

Division 2 Berriwillock lost to Quambatook by 50 shots to 51.

A. Ingram 22 lost to A. McKissack 28, Substitute (R. Barr) 28 d. A. Wood 23.

Woomelang forfeited to Sea Lake.

Birchip had the bye.

Ladder			
	Pts	Shots Up	%
Quambatook	29	-61	73.9
Birchip	28	123	196.1
Sea Lake	23	25	113.9
Berriwillock	10	-67	62.1
Woomelang	6	-20	87.2

Midweek Round 9: Woomelang defeated Sea Lake by 49 shots to 40.

V. Mitchell 16 lost to S. Allan 26, J. Pratt 33 d. C. Watson.

Berriwillock lost to Birchip by 43 shots to 59.

D. Southcott 22 lost to M. Connelly 31, Jamie Simpson 21 lost to P. Hogan 28.

Quambatook had the bye.

Ladder			
	Pts	Shots Up	%
Woomelang	40	70	129.0
Birchip	39	23	107.5
Berriwillock	26	7	103.3
Sea Lake	21	-55	81.3
Quambatook	18	-45	84.7

Wimmera Mallee Cricket Ladders

“A” Grade							
	P	Bye	W	D	L	Pts	%
St. Arnaud	9	1	6	2	1	48	1.8800
Brim KSH	9	1	7	0	2	48	1.6739
Jeffcott	8	2	4	2	2	42	1.2449
Donald	8	2	4	1	3	39	1.2015
Birchip	9	1	2	2	5	24	1.0158
Marnoo	7	2	0	2	5	18	0.2710
Wyche/Narraport	8	1	1	1	6	15	0.3810

“B” Grade						
	P	W	D	L	Pts	%
St. Mary’s	10	6	2	2	42	1.3146
Birchip	10	6	1	3	39	1.4381
Charlton	10	6	1	3	39	1.2901
Jeffcott	10	6	1	3	39	1.0390
St Arnaud.....	10	5	1	4	33	1.2135
Southern Mallee Giants...	10	4	1	5	27	1.1149
Brim KSH	10	1	2	7	12	0.7070
Watchem Panthers	10	1	1	8	9	0.3983

North-Central Pennant Bowls

This Week’s Selected Club Teams



DIVISION ONE Round 14, Saturday, February 5.

Charlton v. Boort CHARLTON

B. Chester, N. Cossar, S. Perry, K. Willey (s)
G. Wain, G. Bateson, P. Watts, L. Southwell (s)
D. McCallum, M. O’Brien, D. Gretgrix, R. Porter (s)

BOORT

K. Walton, I. Mercer, K. Ritchie, T. Moresi (s)
P. Waters, I. Allison, G. Gardner, K. Depiazza (s)
K. Birt, J. Maxted, L. Maxted, S. Morris (s)

Donald Golf v. Wedderburn DONALD GOLF

W. Livingston, G. Harmer, P. Hibberd, T. Hollis (s)
S. Hollis, G. Geddes, G. Rigby, D. Pettifer (s)
L. Borden, A. Frank, R. Reseigh, W. Gniel (s)

WEDDERBURN

A. Noordennan, G. Burnside, A. Caserta, N. Holt (s)
D. Stephenson, L. Holt, B. Hargreaves, B. Montebello (s)
A. Holtn, L. Standfield, J. Grant, L. Witham (s)

St. Arnaud v. St. Arnaud Country Club ST. ARNAUD

T. Amos, C. Marchment, A. Dyke, A. Jackson (s)
T. McSwain, D. Shepherd, M. Wood, G. Hancock (s)
K. Bibby, G. McNally, K. Dyke, G. Simpson (s)

ST. ARNAUD COUNTRY CLUB

J. Needs, J. Nevill, B. Rodger, J. Abbott (s)
D. Goode, T. McDonald, S. Elliott, M. Esmore (s)
T. Marland, L. Lynch, K. Meade, B. McGregor (s)

Donald v. Wycheproof DONALD

I. McEwen, N. Barber, M. Harris, P. Kelly (s)
G. Euvsard, L. Kelly, J. Collins, B. Hegarty (s)
J. Aitken, P. Wyllie, K. Adamson, N. Hollis (s)

WYCHEPROOF

J. Grylls, J. McLean, D. Groves, G. Coatsworth (s)
R. Grylls, F. Grylls, A. Mead, B. Macdonald (s)
A. Jones, V. Grant, A. Coatsworth, E. Rayes (s)

DIVISION TWO Round 14, Saturday, February 5.

Charlton v. Boort CHARLTON

D. Roberts, E. Rosewall (s)
B. Fitzpatrick, D. Finlay (s)
I. Southwell, C. Stewart (s)

BOORT

P. Gould, L. Gardner, T. Noles, J. Hampson (s)
J. Nelson, B. McDonald, P. Baker, K. Strachan (s)
R. Taylor, A. Matley, A. Gould, G. Hudson (s)

St. Arnaud v. Donald Golf ST. ARNAUD

G. Smith, R. Talbot, G. McIntyre, C. Coates (s)
F. James, P. Duncan, G. Shaw, B. Eccles (s)
R. Hollis, J. Prendergast, G. Shinnars, W. Rourke (s)

DONALD GOLF

B. Bayles, J. Hollis, M. Kelly, D. Peake (s)
B. Brasier, T. Boyd, S. O’Shea, M. Frank (s)
J. Meyer, J. Slater, P. Raynes, G. Stopps (s)
Cars: G. Stopps, P. Raynes, M. Frank, leave 12.25.

Korong Vale v. St. Arnaud Country Club KORONG VALE

S. Nelson, R. Ashley, J. Matthews, J. Murnane (s)
L. Barby, Y. Cashen, D. Gibson, A. Roberts (s)
J. Earl, K. Griffiths, W. Keenan, J. Gibson (s)

ST. ARNAUD COUNTRY CLUB

P. Goode, T. Pollock, D. McAllister, D. Moulday (s)
G. White, T. Caine, P. Mullins, K. Pole (s)
J. Jorgensen, G. Fullarton, D. Mullins, C. Webb (s)

Donald v. Wycheproof WYCHEPROOF

R. Coles, L. Milburn, D. Denney, G. Allan (s)
J. Nicholls, B. Taylor, J. McKay, J. Grylls (s)
P. Coles, A. Wallace, N. Coles, P. Connolly (s)

DONALD

K. Smith, J. Subprom, D. Romeo, M. McEwen (s)
C. Perry, M. Quick, B. Milne, L. Morgan (s)
T. Farrer, F. McConville, B. Hollis, G. Davidson (s)

Bye: Wedderburn.

Donald Downed by Country Club

At Country Club on Saturday, there was no joy for either Donald division.

Only Bill Hegarty’s lot of Jack Collins, Luke Kelly and John Howley, stayed with Jason Abbott’s four most of the day, but succumbed by 6 shots in the last few ends, going down 18/24.

Peter Kelly, with Max, Nev and “Tige”, did not handle the heavy green at all well, and were down 10/22 at the break. They eventually fought back in the second half to almost snag a win against Simon Elliott, needing four on the last end and holding five as the skips moved to the mat. Simon managed to get

one in there and saved the match for Country Club, 26/23.

Norm’s team had a bad day against Bob McGregor, going down 15/37.

The twos also could not make a mark on Country Club on the day.

Congratulations to Peter Kelly on getting to the semi-final in North Central Playing Area’s Champion of Champions, played at Wedderburn on Sunday .

— *Tiger in the Ditch*

Birchip Bowls Teams

To play Sea Lake at Sea Lake, bus leaves 12.15, 1.15 p.m. start.

Division 1

D. Cooper, T. Grogan, M. Hogan, M. Spicer (s)

B. Hogan, M. Bowen, T. Doran, W. Clark (s).

N. Noonan, G. Cartwright, R. Bragg, R. Kemp (s).

Division 2

L. Blair, J. Ritchie, R. Barr, G. Smith (s).

G. Trollope, M. Hogan, S. Fraser, N. Fletcher (s).

Good Results for Birchip Tennis

(By Rebecca Botheras)

The 2021-2022 North Central Lawn Tennis Association season resumed last weekend, following the harvest and Christmas break.

To kick off round 9, results saw Birchip edge out Charlton 138-129 games, collecting 8 points to 2, whilst Wirrim claimed all 10 points, following a 128-93 game win against Donald.

Charlton v. Birchip Men

In a tightly fought contest, Charlton's men managed to overcome the Birchip crew to take the section by only 3 games, 47-44 games, claiming the first two points up for grabs.

In the top section, Birchip's men Jon Haslam and Josh Richmond were no

match for the experienced Charlton duo of Troy Heenan and Matt McGurk, going down 8-3, before Birchip's Robbie Lee and Fiona Best (who filled in as man) took to the court against Mason Heenan and Wayne Southwell, but also suffered an 8-6 defeat.

In the lower section the results were much closer, with Jo Lee (who also filled in as a man) and Matt Ryan first on court, against Charlton's Brian Heenan and Cam White, but went down in a tiebreaker 8-7.

After a lengthy battle in the first set, Jo Lee took to the court again with son Blake

Lee, and managed to take an 8-6 win off Charlton's Brian Heenan and Trevor McGurk.

Women

Birchip's women started the season resumption in winning form, with four out of a possible seven set wins, sealing the section 45 games to 39 games, and taking the two points.

In the top section, the top Birchip pairing of Sandie Richmond and Kelly Haslam had a convincing 8-3 win against Charlton's Sharon Mclean and Emily Lanyon, before Kath Brennan and Carling McEvoy also claimed an 8-3 win for Birchip against

Charlton's Abby Thompson and Michelle Jenkyn.

In the lower section, Charlton managed to flip the results, which started off with Carmel Fitzpatrick and Wendy Laffin having an 8-5 win against Birchip's Deanne and Bec Botheras, before Carmel Fitzpatrick and Zara Jenkyn took an 8-6 win off Birchip's Deanne Botheras and Tylah Haslam.

Mixed

Heading into the mixed section, both teams were sitting on two points each, with Birchip up by only 3 games.

The contest didn't take long to heat up, with three tie breakers being played out across the seven sets, but Birchip prevailed and claimed the section by 6 games, 49-43.

In the top section, Charlton's Troy Heenan and Sharon McLean got off to a winning start to defeat Birchip's Jon and Kelly Haslam 8-5, before Birchip's Josh and Sandie Richmond played out the first tiebreaker against Charlton's Matt McGurk and Emily Lanyon, and claimed an 8-7 win.

In other matches, Robbie Lee and Kath Brennan had a convincing 8-3 win against Charlton's Wayne Southwell and Michelle Jenkyn, whilst Fiona Best and Carling McEvoy fought out the second tiebreaker of the section to defeat Charlton's Brian Heenan and Abby Thompson 8-7.

In the lower section, in an all-female affair, Birchip's Jo Lee and Deanne Botheras battled against Charlton's Rae Heenan and Carmel Fitzpatrick before claiming an 8-3 win.

To round out the section, Birchip's Blake Lee and Bec Botheras played out another tightly fought set to take the win 8-7, whilst Matt Ryan and Tylah Haslam suffered an 8-4 loss against Charlton's Cam White and Wendy Laffin.

In an additional fixture on Saturday afternoon, Sandie Richmond and Robbie Lee

fought out a game of Connect 4, which saw Robbie claim the win. Congratulations, Robbie!

Three-set winners were Wendy Laffin and Cam White from Charlton, and Sandie Richmond, Kath Brennan and Carling McEvoy for Birchip.

Donald v. Wirrim Men

To commence the day's play, the Wirrim men got off to a strong start against Donald to claim four out of six sets, which saw them collect the two points with a final score of 43-36 games.

In the top section, Wirrim's experienced top pairing of Tim McClelland and Russell Christie suffered an 8-5 loss against Donald's Derek Hollis and Richard Reilly, before Russell Christie and David Ferrier flipped the results to claim a hard fought 8-5 win off Donald's Richard Reilly and Dawson Hollis.

In the lower section, Wirrim's Baden Grey and James Goldsmith got off to a great start with an 8-5 win against Donald's Braxton Hollis and Stuart Potter, before Baden Grey backed up his first-round performance to partner with Riley Hogan and take out an 8-6 win against Donald's Braxton Hollis and Jason Mellings.

Women

The Wirrim women claimed the two points on offer for the section after a convincing 45-20 game win, set up through winning five out of a possible six sets.

In the top section, Wirrim's De-Anne Ferrier and Julie Coffey were far too strong for Donald's Cherie and Laila Reilly, winning 8-1, before De-Anne Ferrier and Steph Coffey continued the winning form for Wirrim, to achieve another 8-1 win against Donald's Cherie Reilly and Ben Clark.

In the lower section, the contest was much closer, which saw Donald's Carmel

Lowry and Noah Slater take a strong 8-5 win against Wirrim's Alex Randell and Sassia Coffey, while Julie McClelland and Alex Randell turned the tables to defeat Donald's Andrew Slater and Carmel Lowry 8-4.

Mixed

Heading into the mixed section, Wirrim was up by 32 games, but the contest was far from over. Donald fought hard throughout the six sets played, but Wirrim overcame the Donald contingent by only 3 games, 40-37.

In the top section, Wirrim's top pairing of Dave and Dee Ferrier came up against the powerhouse Donald combination of Derek Hollis and Cherie Reilly, with the win going the way of Donald 8-3.

In other matches, Tim and Julie McClelland took to the court for Wirrim against Donald's Richard and Laila Reilly and came away with an 8-5 win, before Russell Christie and Julie Coffey also got the job done for Wirrim, following a further 8-5 win against Donald's Dawson Hollis and Ben Clark.

In the lower section, the experienced Wirrim duo of James Goldsmith and Steph Coffey powered away to claim an 8-5 win against Jason Mellings and Andrew Slater, before Riley Hogan and Sassia Coffey obtained an 8-6 win off Stuart Potter and Noah Slater.

To round out the day's play, Donald's Braxton Hollis and Carmel Lowry took an 8-5 win off Wirrim's Baden Grey and Alex Randell.

Three-set winners were Derek Hollis for Donald, and James Goldsmith, Riley Hogan, Julie Coffey, Steph Coffey, and Julie McClelland for Wirrim.

This weekend's matches will see Charlton and Donald away to St. Arnaud and Kara Kara respectively, Birchip home to Nullawil, and Wirrim with the bye.



• North Central bowls's new singles champion, Laurie Witham.

Laurie Witham is Singles Champion

Wedderburn's Laurie Witham is North Central Playing Area's men's singles champion for 2021-'22, after defeating Wycheproof's Aaron Mead 25-11 in the final played at Wedderburn last Sunday.

With defending title holder, St. Arnaud's Allan Jackson, unable to compete in his club's singles championship, the way was clear for a new champion to be crowned.

And with the benefit of playing on his home green, Laurie duly saluted.

In the lead-up to Sunday's knockout competition, Donald Golf singles champion, Peter Hibberd, played and defeated St. Arnaud Country Club's John Nevill, to reduce the field to eight.

In the knockout quarter-finals, Laurie Witham received a walkover due to St. Arnaud not being represented.

Peter Hibberd defeated Charlton's Dale "Duck" McCallum, 27-3.

Aaron Mead defeated Boort's Shayne Morris, 25-13.

Donald's Peter Kelly defeated Korong Vale's Wayne Keenan, 25-16.

Semi-final results: Laurie Witham d. Peter Hibberd, 25-6, Aaron Mead d. Peter Kelly, 25-20.

Final: Laurie Witham d. Aaron Mead, 25-11.

Congratulations to new champion, Laurie Witham, and to all other club champions on making it through to the champion of champions event.

Ladies Down to Last Four

In North Central Playing Area's ladies' singles champion of champion event, competition was down to the final four, as the "Times" went to press on Thursday.

Boort's Thelma Moresi was to play Donald Golf's Marilyn Frank in one semi-final, while Wycheproof's Betty Taylor was up against Wedderburn's Ruth Hall in the other.

In the quarter-finals, played at the Donald Bowling Club last Monday, Thelma Moresi defeated Donald's Lindy Morgan 25-9, Marilyn Frank defeated Charlton's Lynne Southwell 26-17, Betty Taylor defeated Korong Vale's Joan Murnane 27-18, and Ruth Hall defeated St. Arnaud Country Club's Heather Esmore 25-19.

Kerryn Dyke, the St. Arnaud Bowling Club ladies' singles champion, was eliminated by Lynne Southwell, 25-23.

Birchip Bowlers at Culgoa

Having reached the halfway mark of the Saturday Pennant bowls season, the undefeated Birchip travelled to Culgoa minus its Division 2, which had the week off.

A few players had played in the Australia Day tournament at Culgoa, which gave them some inside knowledge of how the greens would play.

The nearest match to the clubhouse was a ripping battle between two of the associations new arrivals.

Wayne Clark skipped Birchip, while Peter Brook was in control of Culgoa.

"Clarky" had Tony, "Frogga" and Bryan as back up, and they jumped out of the blocks, grabbing the first four ends.

Culgoa then responded, reeling off seven straight ends. The game tightened up with scores tied regularly, but it was the visitors who made a late dash for the line.

Birchip grabbed a slight margin which was enough for it to claim a 30 to 27 shots victory.

The Awesome Foursome of "Reidy", Mick, "Sauce" and "Waffle" remain undefeated after outplaying Peter Lough-ran's team.

With bucket loads of experience, the visitors dominated for the majority of the match. At one point, the margin was seventeen shots.

To Culgoa's credit, it regrouped and won some late ends, but the damage had already been done. The Birchip old boys won by 27 shots to 12.

In the final match, "Kempy", "Carty", Owen and Bobby came up against Tom Gravestocks and his boys.

Neither side took a backwards step early, with Birchip

holding the narrowest of margins at the break.

The Culgoa boys decided on a high protein diet at lunch, and this gave them the energy to dominate the green for the remainder of the match. They won in a canter, 28 shots to 16.

Overall Birchip won by 70 to 67shots, and took home ten match points to Culgoa's two.

Scribe's Observations

• Gutsy effort by "Frogga" making himself available. His Dad, Peter, passed away during the week. He also seemed to enjoy his time on the pencil.

• It's been good to get some matches on the grass greens of late. There's a fair chance we'll play finals on them.

— "You gotta be Up"



• All five lit courts for Sunday night's mixed doubles finals.

Light-up Time at Charlton Courts

The 50th. Annual Australia Day Weekend Tennis Tournament has been a massive success for the town of Charlton and its tennis club, attracting over 160 players from across four states, gracing the town's beautifully prepared 16 grass courts over three days.

The highlight at what is believed to be regional Australia's oldest tennis club, was the "lighting up" of the front row of five courts for the mixed doubles finals on Sunday, January 23 — finals being played in all five grades of competition after round robin qualifying matches played by the 61 pairs in attendance.

Club stalwarts, and life members, Rae and Brian Heenan, were given the honour of officially turning on the new lights. It would have been difficult to find two more fitting people for the honour: Rae, the inaugural women's open singles champion and tournament secretary for the past 30 years; and Brian, who has held every position in the club on numerous occasions, including tournament secretary, and currently greenskeeper as well as tournament director — and the courts were presented at their best once again.

Finalists could not have asked for a better atmosphere

to perform at their best, with the large crowd treated to wonderful tennis across all five grades.

From Far and Wide

With players travelling from as far as Moranbah in Queensland, Merimbula in NSW to Adelaide in SA, and from across all parts of Victoria, including the Mornington Peninsula, Greater Melbourne, Geelong, Mildura, Horsham, Shepparton, Avenel, Bendigo and everywhere in between, the tournament has continued to go from strength to strength, and provides a welcoming atmosphere that brings the little township of Charlton alive for this weekend each and every year.

It was also great to see a growing list of ex-locals joining in the fun, Charlton welcoming back Joanne (McGurk) Cooney, Steve McGurk, Bronwyn (Heenan) Pokorzynski, as well as past club champions — Richard

Noonan, Roger Heenan and Sarah Crutch, all getting back on to the grass of their former club.

Quality

Quality matches were played across the three days. Club president Troy Heenan identified two as particular stand-outs, both featuring two of country Victoria's strongest women players: Geelong's Nicole Mullen teaming with father Michael to overcome four time reigning champions; Shepparton's Eliza Long and Troy Snow in an enthralling match, decided by a third set super tie-break.

The other match no one watching could take their eyes off, was the ladies' open final played between Nicole and Eliza; Eliza avenging the previous night's defeat with a tough 10-8 victory — what a treat for those in attendance to witness such high quality tennis, right here in little old Charlton.



• Rae and Brian Heenan officially turning on the lights.

Sunday Funday

Sunday, January 24, welcomed Sunday Funday at Charlton Park — the mixed

doubles day quickly becoming the show-piece of the weekend.

The day's play leading into the evening dinner break — a "food van" style of offering for players and spectators, with entertainment provided by Greg Towers, new proprietor of the East Charlton Hotel, before all five grades of mixed doubles finals were played in the relative "coolness" of evening beginning at 7:45 p.m. and concluding under the newly operational lights — part of the "Light Up Buloke" project — an evening that is sure to be replicated in the coming years and become a regular part of the Charlton tennis tournament offering.

Champions

Champions in the marquee events were as follows: BQS Group men's open singles champion, Nick Gatusso; Bakery Lane Serviced Apartments ladies' open singles champion, Eliza Long; Walsh Motors men's doubles champions, Nick Gatusso and Joe Nihill; Priority 1 Property

ladies' open doubles champions, Michelle Balic and Bronwyn Osborne; Heenan's Charlton Newsagency open mixed doubles champions, Michael and Nicole Mullen.

Locals (and ex-locals) to do well: Naomi Fitzpatrick, runner-up in "B" grade ladies' doubles (partnered by Kylie Evans, of Bendigo); Steven McGurk, winner of "B" grade men's doubles (partnered by uncle Marty Smith, of Mildura); Patrick and Hamish Noonan (sons of Richard), runners-up in "D" grade men's doubles; Sarah Crutch, runner-up in "B" grade ladies' singles.

Special thanks to the Charlton Lions Club for providing the labour to cook the barbecue, and thanks to all of the sponsors who have come on board this year and contributed to the ongoing viability of the Charlton tennis club — Australia's oldest regional club, and to the holding of this special tournament, which is estimated to contribute in excess of \$60,000 into the local community each year.



• An aerial view of the Charlton Tennis Club court complex.