

DONALD

Phone: 5497 1222
 Articles to:
 news@buloketimes.com
 Adverts to:
 admin@buloketimes.com

The Buloke Times

Est. 1875

BIRCHIP

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

Published Tuesdays and Fridays
 PP331336/0000 1

Tuesday, March 18, 2025

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

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

Buloke Book Club is Back

The very popular Buloke Book Club has returned for 2025 at the Charlton Library in Armstrong Street, Charlton.

Held on the third Tuesday of each month, the group discusses any interesting books that they have recently been reading and give feedback and recommendations on titles and authors.

Book clubs hold great value for a variety of reasons! Here are some benefits they offer:

1. Fostering Community: Book clubs create a sense of connection and belonging by bringing together people with shared interests in reading and discussion.

2. Encouraging Diverse Perspectives: Engaging in a group discussion allows participants to hear different viewpoints and interpreta-

tions broadening their understanding.

3. Boosting Accountability: Being part of a book club motivates readers to complete books they may not have finished otherwise, cultivating a habit of consistent reading.

4. Expanding Literary Horizons: Book clubs often expose members to genres, authors, or topics they might not have considered exploring.

5. Enhancing Critical Thinking and Communication: Discussing themes, characters, and narratives promotes meaningful conversations.

6. Providing Enjoyment and Relaxation: They're a



• Book Club is held at Charlton Neighbourhood House on the third Tuesday of each month, from 10.30 a.m. to noon. Pictured here are, left to right, Cheryl Kemp, Margaret Briffa, Janet Wayne, Adele Allcock (librarian), Brigitta Beaty, Kaylene Cossar, Rohwen Binney.

great way to unwind, enjoy stories, and bond with others in a lighthearted setting.

Make a note in your diary to pop along between 10.30 and 12 noon to join in the con-

versation. Everyone is welcome and a cuppa can be enjoyed after the session. All

enquiries contact the Charlton Neighbourhood House on 0473 759 456.

Top Awards for Donald Bakery

The Donald Bakery left the 2025 Victorian Baking Show, hosted in Bendigo, with a tray full of awards.

The awards were handed out earlier this month and Donald was once again firmly placed on the map thanks to the incredible efforts of the team at the Donald Bakery. Taking home four first place awards and one second place, a big heartfelt congratulations was in order.

When asked about how he felt going into the show, Sam Beavis said, "I wasn't super confident going into it, but I just kept practising and refining my technique up until the last minute."

"The goal is always perfection but it's a goal with no end, you simply keep practising and getting better. Some days you make something so

close to perfection that it's a struggle to put it on sale, instead of just eating it!"

"Going to these events is also just great for feedback, either positive which makes you feel great or negative which helps you learn."

When asked what was his favourite part of the event, however, he simply said: "Family, listening to my kids' excitement was easily the best part."

• *Winning first place in: 450g vienna baked on a tray, 350g french stick, 680g high top half married (2 piece), and two fancy white rolls. With a second place finish for their plain meat pies.*



Film Festival at The Rex

Charlton Arts presents the annual Film Festival at The Rex this coming weekend, giving patrons an opportunity to critique a selection of movies guaranteed to challenge, provoke and engage.

Making a transition to the month of March to avoid clashes with February events, this year's festival is sure to continue building on its already strong following across the state.

Opening on Friday night with the movie "Lee" starring Kate Winslet as the photographer Elizabeth "Lee" Miller, the acclaimed war correspondent for Vogue magazine during World War II — a full day's program follows on Saturday with four more movies of interest.

These include "There's Still Tomorrow" (M) (Italian), 10:30 a.m. | "Sing Sing" (MA 15+) 1:45 p.m. | "The Pool" (PG) 4.00 p.m. | "Saturday Night" (MA 15+) 8 p.m..

Don't miss the opportunity to engage in some stimulating

viewing, maybe catch up with visitors or just treat yourself to a weekend of great food and movie watching.

Tickets include: Season Pass \$100 (inc. all five films, Saturday lunch & 2 suppers) | \$80 All day Saturday (inc. four films, lunch & supper) | \$25 Friday or Saturday Nights (including supper) | \$30 Saturday (1 film and Lunch) | \$12 Single Film.

Bookings: <https://events.humanitix.com/charlton-film-festival-2025>

Charlton Film Festival Friday 21 and Saturday 22 March (various times and classifications).

Patrons please note: There will be no Rex movie screenings Sunday, March 23, or Tuesday, March 25.

Coming Up: Big Year Of Leadership Opportunities

Wimmera Southern Mallee Development (WSMD) is set to deliver an exciting year of leadership development, offering valuable opportunities for individuals across the region.

The highly regarded Wimmera Leadership Changemakers Program returns this June, continuing its mission to cultivate strong, community-focused leaders.

Facilitated by Leading Teams, the 10-month program will feature a dynamic mix of immersive workshops, social

awareness training, leadership development activities, and a group retreat. Participants are required to attend one-day sessions every few weeks.

With 20 places available, businesses can invest in their future by sponsoring a team member's participation. Additionally, a number of scholar-

ships will be available to support accessibility for aspiring leaders.

Places Available

"The Changemakers Program is designed for established and aspiring leaders — whether they own or manage a business or lead a team in the workplace or community,"

said WSMD Program Manager Binesh Tholath.

"Participants will gain in-depth leadership skills, refine their personal leadership 'brand,' and develop strategies to make a lasting impact."

Collaboration

WSMD is also collaborating with the Australian Rural Leadership Foundation (ARLF) to deliver a Community Leadership Program at

Longerenong College this May and June.

This grass-roots program is ideal for individuals passionate about making a difference in their communities. It focuses on fostering collaboration, building resilience, and developing innovative problem-solving techniques while promoting holistic well-being.

"This year's ARLF program is made possible thanks to a grant from the Foundation

for Rural and Regional Renewal, which also funded a similar two-day program in Natimuk last November," Mr Tholath explained.

"For this round, we have up to 24 places, and the program will run over two and a half days each month, including overnight stays."

For more information or to register your interest, contact Binesh Tholath at Binesh.tholath@wsm.org.au.

Visions to Tram-sform Donald's Railway Precinct

Donald is known as a hub for innovation, and this spirit was on full display as the Donald 2000 committee brought the community together for its recent "Tram-sformation" event.

The event sparked a wave of fresh ideas and creative visions for the newly positioned tram at the Donald Railway Station, showcasing the town's passion for revitalising heritage in a way that celebrates the past, while creating new opportunities to attract visitors and strengthen community pride.

"The event concept itself is a refreshing switch from the stock-standard committee meeting, with food and drinks flowing and the entertainment creating a lively atmosphere," said Buloke Shire Council Mayor Cr Alan Getley.

"They certainly know how to draw a crowd and it is inspiring to see how the people of Donald are thinking big

about the future of their town."

Locals shared bold ideas on how the tram could be transformed into a vibrant community space.

Suggestions ranged from painting the tram, mini movie screenings and arts hubs, to interactive history exhibits and event spaces each reflecting the town's enthusiasm for creating unique attractions.

Donald 2000 president Jodie Hollis said the event highlights the community's forward-thinking spirit.

"The incredible ideas shared today show how the tram can become a symbol of both our history and our future a space where stories are shared, visitors gather, and

local creativity thrives," said Jodie.

Attendees explored the tram's interior, participated in interactive discussions, and enjoyed tours of the railway precinct. The event also generated conversations about tourism opportunities and local economic growth.

The "Tram-sformation" event marks the first step in a broader consultation process, with Donald 2000 set to compile feedback and collaborate with key stakeholders to shape the precinct's future.

The event was funded by the Australian and Victorian Government's Community Recovery Hubs Program with support of Buloke Shire Council.



• Vocalist, Claude Niero, drawn to Donald by its affordability, well-resourced schools, and relaxed pace, left the city, relocating with his family, captivated the audience during the event.

GWMWater Calls for Community Feedback

Interested community members are invited to attend a GWMWater Customer and Stakeholder Workshop in Horsham on Friday, March 21, 2025.

The workshop will be held between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. at Horsham Town Hall, with an option to join online.

GWMWater Managing Director Mark Williams said the biannual workshop provided a platform for customers and community to provide input into the initiatives and challenges faced by the organisation to provide quality and affordable water and wastewater services across the

Grampians, Wimmera and Mallee.

"The feedback we gain from our customers and community is essential to ensure that we are making informed decisions that meet the needs of our community," Mark said.

"We will provide a comprehensive water resources update and outlook, along with a look at the process

we've been going through to review our organisational strategy."

Mr Williams said a commitment in the organisations 2025-28 Price Submission was to engage with customers on the possibility of incorporating non-residential customers in its Recreation Contribution Charge, which is then used to provide recreation water discounts across the region.

"We will introduce this as an opportunity and start seeking feedback on whether that is something we should be considering moving forward."

More information, including an agenda and registration details, is available on GWMWater's website: www.gwmwater.org.au/stakeholderworkshop



• Donald 2000 Railway Precinct Project Co-ordinator, Kez Duncan is the visionary behind the project, who aimed to secure the tram for Donald, believing it enriched its story. While such installations are typically found in the city, she thanked the contributors to the project and invited the community to share their ideas for its ongoing use.



• Pictured above and below: More than 40 people converged on the Donald Railway Precinct on Friday night to share their ideas and climb aboard the tram.



Order Your Rubber Stamps

from the

"BULOKE TIMES"

MCCULLOCH STREET, DONALD - 5497 1222

Corack East Wind

Renewable Energy from ACEN



ACEN Australia is in the early stages of investigating a large-scale wind energy project in Buloke Shire in Western Victoria, called **Corack East Wind**. The development is proposed to be located on privately owned land between Donald, Birchip and Wycheproof.

Drop-in information Hub
Every Wednesday 1pm-6pm

Commencing 19 March, 2025

Meet the project team, find out more and provide feedback

Charlton Park Community Bank Complex
Boardroom

Charlton Park Community Bank Complex
Calder Hwy, Charlton

www.corackeastwind.com.au

1800 498 550

info@corackeastwind.com.au

Corack East Wind

Probian Travel to Boort

[From Charlton Probus Club]

On Tuesday, February 25, Charlton Probian, three guests and four Wycheproof Probian travelled to Cobram Estate Olives at Boort for a tour of the olive groves.

The estate takes in 2,777 hectares with 1.2 million olive trees. There are 10 different varieties with about one quarter of the area taken up with 3 main varieties. Trees are propagated from cuttings and reared at their nursery at Lara.

Water for the grove is supplied from the Waranga Channel and this is supplemented by two large dams. During harvest 15 large machines operate non-stop from late April until the end of June. At this time there is an influx of casual workers, many of whom are grey nomads.

After the completion of harvest the remainder of the year is put into maintenance of machinery, carried out on site by 25 permanent and part-time staff. Maintenance of the trees is also carried out.

After the informative tour the group had lunch in Boort.

Thirty four members attended our general meeting on Friday, March 14. New member Glenys Bowen-Hill was nominated by Sandra Patton and we wish her well as a Probian. Deb Cleary spoke about the Table for 8 where she will lead a cooking class devoted to Greek food. Deb explained how she developed an interest in Greek food.

After morning tea the club held its AGM. In her president's report Anne Kenny made special mention to Pat Clifford who has had the hospitality role for 16 years, and did not seek re-election. Words cannot express the club's gratitude to Pat for her willingness to cater at our monthly meetings, and

especially on our outings, our birthday and the AGM.

Committee

After the general business formalities Brian Heenan was asked to conduct the election of office bearers. The 2025/26 Committee is: President, Kim Wishart; secretary, David Beaty; treasurer, Nick Saunders; outings, Sandra Patton; membership, Garry Larmour; publicity/historian, Anne Kenny; newsletter, Patricia Mathews; program and hospitality, Sue Walsh; caring, Eily Rosewall.

Kim said she was honoured to lead the club.

Slide Show

After the AGM Garry Larmour presented a slide show of the Trade Travel trip to Kangaroo Island last year. Quite a few Probian were on



• Probus committee: Kim Wishart, Nick Saunders, Anne Kenny, Garry Larmour, Sandra Patton, Pat Mathews, Sue Walsh, Eily Rosewall, David Beaty.

the trip. On the way they visited the Strathalbyn Museum. At Victor Harbour they went on the horse drawn tram and visited a museum. They boarded a Sea Link ferry at Cape Jervis to cross to Kingscote, Kangaroo Island. Some of the places visited on the island were – a wild life park, a lavender farm, the Blow Hole, Remarkable Rocks, a winery and the Emu Ridge Eucalyptus Oil Distillery.

On the return to Charlton they stopped at McLaren Vale in the wine district. Garry was particularly impressed with the d'Arenberg Cube – a 5 storey building inspired by the Rubik's cube. It houses a contemporary art museum, a tasting room etc. Another great trip with Trade Travel.



• Sandra Patton and Glenys Bowen Hill.



• Charlton Probus group.

Letter to the Editor

What is Bullying?

(The Editor, "The Times")

Dear Editor:– Bullying is usually defined as a repeated behaviour which is intended to hurt someone, either emotionally or physically, and is often aimed at a certain person or people such as their race, religion, gender, sexual orientation or any other aspect, like one's appearance or disability. Bullying affects lots of people and can happen to anyone at any place, including school, work, within families or in the community.

Why do people bully others?

There's no simple answer as to why, but people often bully others because they're dealing with their own problems. Maybe they feel weak in other parts of their life, so they try to feel strong by pushing others around. Sometimes it's about fitting in with current and new friends or getting attention. Some bullies might not realise how much they're hurting others, or they've seen bullying behaviour at home or in their community and think it's the right thing to do. Maybe they struggle to understand other people's feelings.

While these reasons might explain bullying, they don't make it okay. Everyone deserves to feel safe and respected.

Mr Editor, there are many forms of bullying such as name calling, social, physical assault (push and shove), repeated threatening behaviour at someone, sexualised bullying and last but not least, cyberbullying.

The driving forces behind bullying may vary from person to person, but bullies share some common characteristics. For example, an individual may bully because he or she knows that it gets them what they want, while others bully because they are deeply insecure. No matter the cause, bullying is unacceptable, regardless of where it takes place.

Types of bullying: Face-to-face bullying – involves direct verbal actions such as name-calling and insulting, or physical actions such as kicking or punching. Covert bullying is a more subtle type of bullying which isn't easily seen or recognised by others, for example deliberately excluding people from social groups or spreading rumours about a targeted individual. Cyber bullying occurs through the use of the internet and related technologies such as text messages, instant messaging, email and social networking sites or forums.

Bullying is never restricted to just younger children in the school yard but is very evident with teenagers, adults,

sports and workplaces, in fact various forms of bullying are common in all elements of our society including military and politics. Bullying is an increasing and common issue that we all have experienced or witnessed at some point in our life. Be it high school students, a distant or close relative, a sibling, a colleague, a supervisor, a friend, or anyone... bullying can be seen anywhere!

Impacts

What are the impacts of bullying? For a start bullying can be dangerous to the victim's mental health as it can create the risk of developing mental health conditions such as antisocial personality disorder, anxiety disorder, depression or death. Bullying leaves such a negative impression that sometimes victims show an increased risk of self-harm or suicide. Other common impacts of bullying can be, for instance, in the case of children at school – decreased grades or testing scores, difficulty learning or focusing at school, an increased risk related to the development of eating disorders, loss of interest or concentration in social activities, nightmares or terrors, a reduced self-esteem and more.

Distressing Forms

Two of the most distressing forms of bullying I have witnessed are workplace bullying

and cyber bullying. Workplace bullying is the persistent mistreatment that occurs in the workplace. It can include behaviours such as verbal criticism, personal attacks, humiliation, belittling, and exclusion. It's important to note that anyone can be a bully or be bullied, regardless of the role they have in the workplace. In many instances, apprentices were often targeted with many of the above behaviours often with the knowledge of managers and owners.

Unfortunately, bullying in the workplace is far from uncommon. Workplace bullying hurts the health and well-being of employees. It can also damage workplace productivity and performance. Bullying's pernicious nature creates long-lasting scars that have an effect on the victim's sense of self-worth, self-assurance, and general mental health.

Workplace bullying is not always overt or openly hostile, it can also take more subtle forms, including gaslighting where the bully engages in abusive or cruel behaviours, but then denies the abuse. The goal of gaslighting is to make the victim doubt their reality and experiences.

More subtle workplace bullying can hide in plain sight, but recognising its more subtle signs can empower individuals to reclaim their worth. If bullying in the workplace hap-

pens over time without repercussions to the bully, then there is a problem with the workplace culture. Values on the corporate wall and website are merely words unless the workplace walks the talk and there are consequences to the bully and future bullies.

Cyberbullying occurs when electronic gadgets like mobile phones, computers, social media, and internet services are used as a means to intentionally hurt someone in cyberspace. With cyberbullying, negative content can be shared, saved, and spread online, and a victim can be bullied 24/7. Online threats and mean, aggressive, or rude texts, tweets, posts, or messages all impact, so does posting personal information, pictures, or videos designed to hurt or embarrass the victim.

Online bullying can be particularly damaging and upsetting because it's usually anonymous or hard to trace. It's also hard to control, and the person being victimised has no idea how many people (or hundreds of people) have seen the messages or posts. People can be tormented non-stop whenever they check their device or computer.

Online bullying and harassment can be easier to commit than other acts of bullying because the bully doesn't have to confront their target in person. The effects of cyberbullying

can be long-lasting and damaging, particularly to children and teenagers. Unlike traditional bullying, where victims can often find refuge at home, cyberbullying follows victims everywhere, coupled with the pervasive nature of modern technology.

Mr Editor, we have always perceived that people who bully are bad, negative, or toxic! But have we ever given a single thought about the bullies? Have we ever thought about why people bully, why teens or kids bully each other, or what could be the reasons behind their negative behaviour?

A counsellor can address the reasons behind this behaviour, helping those who bully to change their destructive habits and take responsibility for their actions. There can be many reasons for bullying, which often have roots in mental health challenges, traumatic experiences, or family dysfunction. Early intervention and therapy can make a big difference in bullying behaviour, especially for teens. Along the way, a bully can learn to relate to others in healthier ways and heal the wounds within that may be contributing to their behaviour.

Sincerely yours,
Kenneth King J.P.,
Southern Mallee Counselling Services.
Birchip, Victoria.

"Times" Classifieds

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

Deadlines:—

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

HAPPY BIRTHDAY
Betty Wood

Happy 90th birthday to our mum & nanna for tomorrow. May your birthday be filled with joy and blessings.

—Love from George, Owen, Rhonda, Mark, Nev and all the in-laws and 9 grandchildren.

BEREAVEMENT THANK-YOU

The family of Kathy Hose would like to express heartfelt gratitude for the love and support received following Mum's passing. We were overwhelmed by all of the messages of sympathy, cards, phone calls, flowers, food and visits. Your kindness gave us great comfort during a terribly sad time.

We thank those who attended Mum's funeral service in Geelong and the people who were unable to attend but watched online through the live stream. Many thanks to Tuckers Funerals Geelong, for providing this service and for ensuring that all went well on the day. We truly believe Mum would have been thrilled with the service and deeply touched that so many people have reached out over the last few weeks.

— With sincerest thanks,
Claire, Marcia, Tarah, Sacha, Brydie, Kailey and families.

JEFFCOTT NORTH LANDCARE Meeting

THURS., MARCH 20
7.30 a.m.
at Neil and Jill McEwen's to discuss the future of the group.
Breakfast provided. BYO chair. Contact Neil on 0428 915 259 for more details.

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

FOR SALE
100 Acres, McClellands Rd, Cope Cope. Cropping /grazing, immediate possession. Ph. 0400 527 115.

DONALD TYRE & EXHAUST CENTRE

Will be
CLOSED UNTIL
Monday March 24
Sorry for any inconvenience

Keep Abreast with Local Happenings!

Don't forget Your Local Newspaper



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



WEST VIC AGRICULTURE & SPREADING SOLUTIONS

GYPSUM • LIME • UREA • S.SUPER

For all Your Spreading Needs

Jason Knight

0416 884 760

Goodwin Village invites you to an
Open Morning Tea

Tuesday March 25, 2025
10-11am at Goodwin Village

Come along to a morning of cake, singing (*by The Village Singers*), information on volunteering and conversation.

This is a great opportunity to chat to our lovely residents and come back if you used to visit. If you'd like to sign up to visit residents this is the time to find out more. **No need to RSVP but for more information call Goodwin Village 54971 304.**

Poultry Shed Erector

Casual Position

We are a successful poultry shed building company looking to find additional strong workers to join our site crew. We are looking for labourers who are hardworking and willing to work as part of a team with the right attitude. The position includes concrete work for piers and slabs, steel framework, erection and roofing. The job location is in **Huntly North** and is a casual position starting **April 7, 2025.**

If you are interested, please phone Eddy on 0428 481 811.

DoB in a friend
If you know someone celebrating a birthday, or wedding anniversary or some other special occasion, let us know and we'll let the world know!

- March 19, Betty Wood (90)
- March 23, Kirby Richmond

Darrell Lea Fine Chocolates

JOHN SANDS

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

REX THEATRE CHARLTON 30-34 High St. Charlton 03 5491 2333 boxoffice@rextheatre.org.au rextheatre.org.au

COMING ATTRACTIONS

Charlton Film Festival 21 & 22 March

Abduction From the Seraglio
An opera by W.A. MOZART
Live on Stage
THE ABDUCTION FROM THE SERAGLIO
Sat 29 March 2pm

No Screenings Sun & Tue
COMING: THE LAST SHOWGIRL Sat 29 Mar | Sun 30 Mar | Tue 1 April

Charlton Film Festival
REX THEATRE CHARLTON

Friday, March 21 & Saturday, Feb. 22

FRIDAY	
8 pm	Lee
SATURDAY	
10.30 am	There's Still Tomorrow
1.45 pm	Sing Sing
4.00 pm	The Pool
8.00 pm	Saturday Night

Tickets available from the Charlton Neighbourhood House 0473 759 456 or online at <https://events.humanitix.com/charlton-film-festival-2025>

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



George
ST MARY'S PRIMARY SCHOOL, DONALD

Mensland

OUTFITTING MEN SINCE 1959

Has the greatest range of

BRACES & BOW TIES

(who cares?)

AT MENSLAND

We're still here just having a go!

as well as

R.M. WILLIAMS and MONGREL BOOTS

(now ya talking!)

Just ring or email mensland@inet.net.au and we will deliver your order.

For Promotions, Specials and Competitions, us on Facebook

Find us on

70 Woods Street, Donald — 5497 1211

Charlton Hosts Carers Group Lunch

The Charlton Neighbourhood House was excited to have representatives from Mallee Family Care and Northern District Community Health come along to its recent Carers Group lunch at the East Charlton Hotel.

A large group of attendees was provided information and access to answers to a myriad of questions relating to mental health, disaster funding, legal aid and much more. Informative flyers and literature were available to take, and everyone present commented on what a wonderful afternoon it was.

Carers groups are incredibly important as they provide vital support and resources for those who dedicate their time and energy to looking after

others. Caring for someone can be rewarding but also emotionally taxing.

Carers groups offer a safe space to share experiences, feelings, and frustrations with people who truly understand. Members of these groups often share tips and strategies for managing care-giving tasks, navigating healthcare systems, and addressing specific challenges.

The Charlton Carers Group meets monthly for a social lunch and to listen to a

range of speakers from various organizations. Lunch is provided at a subsidised price with drinks at bar prices.

A special thanks must go to Carol Bennett for all the time she puts into making these days such a wonderful success. For all enquiries contact the Charlton Neighbourhood House on 0473 759 456.

• Right: A Charlton Carers Group meeting was recently held at East Charlton Hotel.



February Historial Enquiries

One of last month's enquiries took us back to an investigation that was carried out in the earliest days of the Donald History Society. George Stebbins had carried out the investigation, which probably came about when he was researching all of the small country schools around Donald.

One of the schools was known as "The Plant's Paddock School" and the sign marking its spot is clearly visible today, on the right side of the Devon Park Road, 6.9 km from the Sunraysia Highway. George's task was to find out who the Plants were and Ron Falla was there to help him with excerpts from the "St Arnaud Mercury".

Walter Plant was an Englishman, who came to Australia in the late 1830s. In 1852 he married Janet Phillips and the couple eventually had 9 children born in various places around Victoria. The sixth child, Henry, was born in Donald in 1864, where Walter had found work on Banyenong Station in 1862. He would have worked as a shepherd and he remained there for 11 years. This was before the selection process had started and Banyenong Station covered a huge area, including the paddock where Walter and his family lived, which subsequently became known as "Plant's paddock". A nearby dam in an adjacent paddock was known as "Plant's Tank".

In 1873, Walter Plant was still living on his paddock with eight children when he decided to select land near St Arnaud, said to be about 1 mile from the St Arnaud police camp. He did this because he wanted an education for his children, whose only choice was to travel the long distance to the Donald school. Walter had selected his St Arnaud land, been recommended and had worked there for several months on the land, building a hut for himself.

The "St Arnaud Mercury" of May 10, 1873 records that

a great injustice was done to Walter Plant at this time. In short, Walter was accused of being a dummy selector, had his hut torn down and told that "his bonafides are so doubtful that a licence to occupy cannot be granted". An M.P. by the name of Walker had promised at this time "to enquire into the merits of the report which deprived this man so unjustly of his national rights". Nothing must have come of the enquiry as Walter did not get his land restored, but he later did obtain land in the Mooleer area south of St Arnaud. A school was eventually built at "Plant's Paddock" in July 1877, four years after Walter Plant had departed.

Walter must have remained at Mooleer for some years, as two of his sons married girls from the St Arnaud area in the 1890s. Walter's eldest child was also Walter, born at Plenty River (Melb?) in 1854. Walter Jr. and his brother Henry married two of the McRae sisters from Gre Gre. Walter married Kate McRae in St Arnaud in 1895 and they had 4 children. The following year Walter Plant Jr. set himself up as a "Hide, Skin and Tallow Merchant". DT and DE 17th July, 1896) at McGillverys corner in Donald, which is now 18 Woods St. (This fills in a gap in Donald's history as Lamplough's Butchers had temporarily left this building in 1894, then moved back in 1900, only to be hit by the 1909 floods). Kate Plant, Walter's wife, set herself up as a green grocer "opposite the Shire Hall" also in 1896. The St Arnaud Shire Hall (as it was then) is our current "Shear Delights Bakery". A sign, "St Arnaud Shire Hall" was erected on the building in 1895. Kate possibly had her business in Cerini's Baker Shop, which was vacant at that time. Neither business lasted and the Plants moved on and were not mentioned in Donald again.

Their eldest son, Alexander Plant is the grandfather of

84-year-old Leo Plant, from Leeton, who came to visit Donald on the 7th February, 2025, with his two daughters, Mardi and Keisha. They stayed the night in Donald, having spent several hours with Warren McRae from Gre Gre, and then visited the archives. Mary Archbold had already sent them the results of George Stebbins's investigation and they were thrilled to be given the instructions to find the "Plant's Paddock School" sign, on the Devon Park Rd, which they rightly see as a fitting memorial to their family in this area.

To cap off an exciting day they dined at the Bullock's Head Tavern and had a lovely time discussing their day with the "Friday night drinks" "nongenarians, Robin and Shirley Letts and Bill Anderson. Lindsay Henderson, Graeme Harris and Trevor Campbell also joined the group. From reports given, it is hard to decide who had the best time — the visitors or the locals.

On a Personal note, the "Donald Times" of February 3rd, 1925, contained an advertisement for an "Important Land sale", 1400 acres on the Single Tree Rd, Parish of Witchipool, owned by the McNeill Bros. John Walsh, a farmer from Sutherland, near St Arnaud attended the land sale at Falla and Pity Yards, now the Commonwealth Bank, and bought the lot. There was no price given but it was probably about £16 per acre. John Walsh had six sons and all, at times, came up to work the new land and "batched" in the house, which is still standing on the Single Tree Rd and now owned by the Theoharethes family. Four of the Walsh sons and one daughter settled in the Litchfield/Donald area, raising their families here. This means that the Walsh family has been in Litchfield for 100 years and a celebration is planned for April 5th, culminating with a public event at the Litchfield Hall, which all are welcome to attend.

Blast from the Past

(From the "Donald Times", March 3, 1925)

March 3. Victoria's Best!

The "Donald" Brand Since the opening of the Donald Freezing Works has always been recognised that the quality of the lamb exported from the district would bear more than favourable comparison with the products of other similar works. The demand for the "Donald" brand has steadily increased in the London market, and the following extract from a letter just to hand from the company's agent in London should cause shareholders and others to take a greater measure of practical interest and pride in their own works: "As a matter of interest I am pleased to be able to advise that the quality of your present season's shipments of lamb is giving every satisfaction to the trade. As a matter of fact the 'Donald' lambs are about the best Victorian brand offering, and the 'Ara' brand is commanding a premium over and above the prices realised for other secondary brands. This is a distinct advantage as Australian 2nd and 3rd grade lambs are a very slow sale and the holders are reducing their prices in order to push sales. The 'Ara' is the Donald second grade lamb."

March 6. Shocking Fatal-ity Mr. Robert Coats Killed.

The district was once again visited by the hand of Death, when on Wednesday last, Robert Gustus ("Bob") Coats, youngest son of Mr. and Mrs. Sam Coats, was a result of an accident. On Wednesday afternoon he rode off on his pony to round up some horses on Mr. Eric Coats's farm, and sometime later his brother, Vin, who had also started out for the same place, noticed the horses were still in the paddock. Curiosity prompted him to investigate, as he also saw his brother's pony loose in the paddock. It was not long before he discovered his brother lying against the foot of the tree, with the saddle lying beside him, and the broken reins in his hand. Seeing he was unconscious and badly injured, he carried him to the house, where, on account of Mr. and Mrs. Eric Coats being absent on holidays, he had considerable difficulty in entering and

ringing up. The unfortunate lad had died, however, before further assistance could be obtained. From the manner in which the girths of the saddle had broken, it appeared as though he had been thrown with great force against the tree, the back of the skull having been fractured, and an abrasion being noticeable on the side of the forehead. Mrs. Coats and her daughter Melva were in Donald at the time of the accident. The deepest sympathy is felt for Mr. and Mrs. Coats and family in their sad and sudden bereavement. The deceased lad was twenty years of age and was the youngest son. He had been singularly unfortunate in the past, having lost the sight of one eye through a shooting accident some years ago. This did not prevent him from entering into all forms of sport, and he was well and popularly known on all the sporting grounds in the district as a keen and able competitor in all equestrian events, in addition to which, he was a valued playing member of the Jeffcott Football Club, his quiet but happy disposition making him a favourite amongst those with whom he came in contact. In addition to the bereaved parents, to whom we join in conveying deepest sympathy, the following members of the family are left to mourn their loss: Eric, Percy, Cal, Vin and Melva.

March 10. Donald Cup Winner.

Messrs. G. Bullen, Son and Burt, acting for Robert Nicholas, of Honey-suckle Street, Bendigo, on Friday issued a Supreme Court writ directed against David McNamara of Glen Eira Road, Caulfield, horse trainer, claiming the return of the racehorse Posima, winner of the last Donald Cup. Nicholas in his writ alleges

McNamara, wrongfully detains the horse, and he claims its return and £100; or alternatively, £500 for alleged wrongful conversion, and also an account of all winnings. Posima is entered for the Swan Hill Cup tomorrow.

March 13. Litchfield.

The annual general meeting of the Litchfield-Carron Football Club was held recently, a large attendance of enthusiasts being present. Last year's president (Cr. M. Burton) and last year's secretary (Mr. Chas. Hicks) were re-elected and the financial statement showing that the club had "squared the ledger" and was starting the year practically from scratch again. Owing to the confusion that arose last year on account of the similarity of the Donald and Litchfield-Carron jerseys, one being blue and white and the other being blue and gold, the Litchfield Club has decided to adopt a new uniform of maroon and gold for the forthcoming season.

March 17. Watchem.

At the last meeting of the Donald Shire Council, Cr. Borden moved that, in accordance with the Council's decision of some months ago, the Watchem depot reserve be formed. A fence was badly needed and he would also move that a padlock and chain be provided. At the present time some people carted rubbish and tipped it wherever they wished. As to the nature of the rubbish, they were not particular as dead fowls and other obnoxious refuse were scattered indiscriminately. He thought the practice rather an unpleasant one and for this reason, it was desirable that persons desiring to tip rubbish there should have to apply for a key to the reserve. Cr. Adams seconded and the motion was carried.

Have You Got Something to Sell?

Try an advert in

The Buloke Times

Over 2000 readers will see your adv. every issue, giving you the best chance to move your sale item.

Phone 5497 1222 or email: adming@buloketimes.com



Fond Farewell for Kathy Hose —

The funeral service for Kathryn Anne Hose, “Kathy”, was held at Tuckers Funerals Geelong, in Highton on Thursday, March 6.

Her elder brother, Denis Flett, delivered the story of her childhood and family adventures, and this is a condensed version of what Denis read.

Twins were born into Bill and Daph Flett’s family on February 26, 1958. Kathy arriving 15 minutes before Barry, a fact of which she often reminded him. The twins completed the family, with six siblings. Roslyn was born in 1945, followed by Carol (’48), myself (’51), Brenda (’55), before Kathy and Barry arrived in ’58.

All were born and educated at Donald and initially lived on the farm known as Cherry Hill, at Laen.

Kathy showed her adventurous spirit and leadership qualities early, and would take the lead as the toddler twins explored the world around our home, often calling “Come on Barry” as she headed off to visit the turkeys at Uncle George and Aunt Glad’s house down the road. Daph would follow the trail of clothing left in their wake and would eventually catch up to them.

When Kathy and Barry were 3 years old, the family moved from the farm to its new home at 28 McCracken Avenue in Donald. They would stick together like glue. Brenda recalls that if she

didn’t get on with one of the twins, she would be battling both. Christmases and key family events would revolve around Bill and Daph at McCracken Avenue, and as the years rolled by, many good times were had with a growing number of McLean, Hose, Vallance and Flett cousins arriving along the way.

Mischief

As the twins grew up, lots of mischief was had at McCracken Avenue. For example: painting their toy paddle-car, and themselves, with pink undercoat paint, making bamboo spears with the Woods kids from next door, helping reduce the number of mice during the plague by attacking them with hockey sticks and cricket bats, or attempting to shoot between each other’s legs with my slug gun. Fearing Kathy might not be as accurate as he was, Barry put his hands down low to protect his manliness. Kathy’s shot did go a bit high, and hit one of his fingers, amazingly taking clean off a troublesome large wart. Not even pointing out the benefit of the wart removal could stall off my punishment from Bill.

Hockey

In Grade 6, Kathy began playing hockey and it was quickly obvious that she was well skilled, could read the

play, and had a great temperament. When Kathy was 13, she and Brenda played country week hockey in Melbourne. They did not navigate well when walking home after one match. They walked for hours in the wrong direction, ate a dodgy hamburger and eventually admitted defeat at the North Melbourne Police Station, with officers having to drive them back to their accommodation. Unfortunately, that dodgy hamburger led to Kathy being diagnosed with Hepatitis A, and she would be forced to spend a term away from school and sport.

Brenda and Kathy had the privilege of playing in the first Donald Hockey Club “A” grade premierships in 1976. The team was coached by Nancy Warhurst, who played state grade hockey.

Brenda was captain, and Kathy, who wasn’t the fastest but always the best positioned for an intercept or a pass, was the Best & Fairest that year.

Trip of a Lifetime

In 2016, we had an all-in siblings trip of a life-time. The central intent was to follow the Flett ancestral trail back to Orkney. Together we visited the church where Kathy’s great grandfather Peter Flett was re-married after his first wife died, and then the house where grandfather George Frederick Flett

was born and lived until, when 13, he made the long trek to the settlement farm called Cherry Hill to work for his uncle.

In Orkney, we visited the still standing ruin of the ancestral home known as Flett’s Bigging, where many generations of our Flett lineage lived and died. This was special, as was our visit to the home of John and Ingrid Flett, the last Flett family still farming at the locality of Outertown. It was from Outertown that many Fletts dispersed to other parts of the world, including the family lines that led to our existence in Australia.

Kathy would be resolute, liked a bit of mischief, and helped others when and where needed, with a loving and respectful disposition. She was a caring person, a fantastic sister, and a wonderful and valued aunty. The love and respect she earned throughout her life was evident by the care displayed from her band of daughters, her grandchildren and the steady stream of visitors she had, as her health rapidly diminished.

Treasure Lost

In Kathy’s death we have all lost something we treasured; for us it’s a much-loved sister, sister-in-law, aunty, and great-aunty, as well as the prime connector of our broader families and relatives.

Not many people are held in higher regard than you, Kathy, or get a sporting field



• The late Kathy Hose.

named in their honour. Good-bye and thank you.

Daughter’s Eulogy

Kathy’s daughters, Tarah and Sacha then delivered the next part of the eulogy, outlining Kathy’s family life, her sporting endeavours, her hockey career, and her life in Anglesea. Again, this has been condensed as it was a lengthy eulogy.

Kathy and Des married in 1976, at just 18 years of age and took up residence at the

farm. They didn’t waste any time starting a family, as they intended on having a large one. Eleanor Claire, was the first born arriving in 1979, closely followed by Marcia in 1980. Tarah arrived in ’84, Sacha in ’89, Brydie in ’91 and eight years later Kailey came along in 1999.

Farm Life

Life on the farm was super busy and Kathy was kept on her toes, with kids who would

• Continued on page 7.

2025.25 | 7 YEARS ROADSIDE ASSIST & CAP PRICE SERVICING IN STOCK NOW

ABN Discount Prices



MY 2025.25 Ranger DualCab, Wildtrak, 3.0 Ltr V6 Dsl, 10 Spd Auto 4x4, Meteor Grey, Leather Accented Seats, Wildtrak Premium Pack **\$77,600** Drive Away

MY 2025.25 Ranger DualCab/Cab Chassis, XLT, 3.0 Ltr V6 Dsl, 10 Speed Auto 4x4, Meteor Grey, Premium Cloth Seat Trim, Upfitter Aux 6 Switch Pack, Bull Bar, Scrub Bars & Air Bags **\$76,400** Drive Away (Tray extra)

MY 2025.25 Ranger SuperCab Chassis, XL 2.0 Ltr Biturbo Diesel, 10 Speed Auto 4x4, Arctic White, Cloth Seat Trim, Towing Pack **\$52,300** Drive Away (Tray extra)

2025.25 Ranger DualCab Pickup, XLT, 2.0 Ltr Biturbo Dsl, 10 Speed Auto 4x4, Arctic White, Premium Cloth Seat Trim, Touring Pack, Mandatory ProTrailer Backup Assist **\$65,100** Drive Away



MY 2025.25 Ranger DualCab Pickup, Sport, 3.0 Ltr V6 Dsl, 10Spd Auto 4x4, Meteor Grey, Sport Embossed Seats, Touring Pack, Mandatory Pro Trailer Backup Assist **\$73,700** Drive Away

MY 2025.25 Ranger DualCab, Wildtrak, 3.0 Ltr V6 Dsl, 10Spd Auto 4x4, Arctic White, Leather Accented Seats, Wildtrak Premium Pack **\$76,900** Drive Away

My 2024.50 Mustang Fastback Dark Horse, 5.0l Petrol, 10Spd Auto, Blue Ember, Sport Seats, Dark Horse Appearance Pack **\$129,990** Drive Away

Please call
Duane Johns 0434 566 830 or
Tye Sibley 0409 286 614 for further information

Michaels of Donald
13-15 McCulloch St, DONALD Ph. 54971203 LMCT 6873

A Leader in Many Endeavours

• Continued from page 6.

wander away on adventures with the family dog. Some would need stitches, injections, and others, surgeries; there never seemed to be a dull moment. But Kathy took it all in her stride and dedicated most of her time to running her kids around to school and sports. She liked to be involved in some capacity, with whatever we were doing, whether it was being on school council or coaching our sporting teams.

Gardening

Gardening became a great passion for Kathy on the farm and she continued this at each of her dwellings. She loved planning, planting then pottering in her beautiful gardens and found it quite therapeutic to stand amongst her achievements giving them love and attention when needed. She was very proud of her gardens, and always happy to do

a walk through detailing the plant selections or showcasing her flowering beauties on Facebook.

Sports

Playing sport and keeping active was a vital part of Kathy's life. She played tennis in Donald throughout her early years, then had a 20-year hiatus, before taking it up again in Anglesea and up until recently, was still playing three times a week. She played basketball for many years, into her late 40s, in the Donald women's competition. She even tried her hand at netball, boogie boarding and badminton along the way, but the one consistent sport over her lifetime, was hockey.

Different Roles

Kathy undertook many different roles in the clubs she was involved in during her time in Donald.

From player to coach, umpire to administrator, she was

willing to take on any job to help the club's success. She was a member of the Donald Lawn Tennis Club and the Donald Amateur Basketball Association, of which she was awarded Life Membership in 2009, and was recognised by Basketball Victoria for her longtime contribution. She also became an active member of the Torquay Hockey Club and the Anglesea Tennis Club. Her favourite club of all, though, was her beloved Donald Hockey Club.

True Love

Hockey was Kathy's one true love in sporting life. She loved the game, the teammates, the tournaments, the clubs and all of the people she was fortunate enough to meet along the way. She started playing for the Donald Hockey Club at age 12, where she played until moving from Donald in 2016. So that's a 46-year association with the

club. Over her time, she was president, vice-president, committee member, North Central rep, JCC co-ordinator, coach, umpire and of course player.

Top Honour

She was awarded Life Membership in 1985 and after her years of continued dedication, the club kindly decided to name the hockey field in her honour. This was a testament to the longevity of the commitment she gave to the club over her journey. She won 10 "A" grade Best & Fairest awards for Donald and was awarded Best & Fairest for North Central Hockey Association on two occasions also.

She was privileged to play with some Donald hockey legends along the way winning 18 "A" grade premierships over her time, none more special than the ones she played with her daughters.

Coaching

It was her impressive understanding of the game that led Kathy to coaching and her true calling was coaching juniors. Teaching kids the skills, rules and strategies of the game was a real passion for Kathy and she always tried to get the best out of each and every child she coached. She not only developed the junior players at Donald, but coached at North Central and North West Vic level too.

Kathy was a huge advocate for junior hockey in the North Central and was the original co-ordinator and organiser for the league, taking representative teams to the Junior Country Championships in Melbourne. She led this campaign for 6 years but her involvement mentoring players and coaching teams continued for another decade. She was awarded Life Membership of the NCHA in 2000. Her interest in these rep sides also paved the way for her to become involved in coaching and team selection for the

North West Lightning hockey teams, who would participate at the Junior State Championships.

Gold Masters

Kathy was fortunate enough to play representative hockey herself, in the Vic Gold Masters inaugural team in 1995 at the Australian Masters Games. The timing of this wasn't great, though, with her family growing rapidly, she put this on the back burner for a while, picking it up again in her 50s.

She also took on a coaching role for the Vic Gold 45-plus team. They were back-to-back champions in 2021-2022.

Torquay Tornados

For the last 8 years, Kathy played hockey for the Torquay Tornados playing her last game as premiership captain in September last year, a fitting way to end her 54-year playing career.

Kids were a common theme through Kathy's life. She not only had a big family herself, but she volunteered her time teaching hundreds of Donald kids how to play tennis, basketball and hockey.

She went on to make a career out of helping kids as a Teacher's Aide, starting at the Donald High School and finishing at the Anglesea Primary School. She also provided supervision at after school care at both the Bellbrae and Anglesea schools.

However, the most important kids in Kathy's life were, hands down, her grandchildren: Kiara, Aaron, Noah, Malakai, Paxton, Rafferty, Elijah, Indiana and Paige. They were her pride and joy. She enjoyed spending quality time with them doing arts and

craft, playing games or watching their sporting matches.

Many wonderful memories were made during outings to the beach, going on nature walks and other outdoor adventures. The grandchildren will cherish these memories forever and are thankful for the time they got to spend with Grandma.

Colour and Art

Kathy expressed herself through colour and art. Over the years, she tried her hand at a range of different art forms and many of her brightly coloured creations were displayed throughout her home and garden. She had some extremely talented artistic friends who further inspired her love of art and many an afternoon would be spent with friends creating art pieces on her deck-come-art studio.

Following the breakdown of her marriage, Kathy made the brave decision to leave Donald in 2016 and relocate to Anglesea, a favourite holiday destination for the family. This turned out to be a fantastic decision as she finally found her "happy place" and "her people", and it was here that she was able to start healing and ultimately thrive. She was playing sport, working in her dream job, meeting new people, making new friends and living her best life.

Unfortunately, Kathy was diagnosed with Stage 4 Duodenal Adenocarcinoma in early November – a rare and aggressive cancer and sadly, her decline was rapid. While her cancer battle was short, she fought with all the strength she could muster and faced it with dignity, never complaining. She passed away peacefully on February 27, 2025, with her daughters by her side.



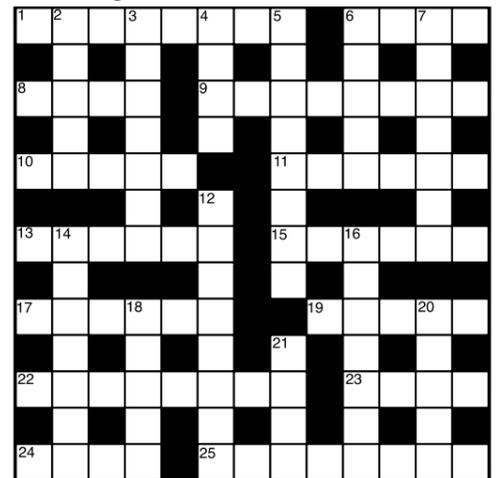
• At the Kathy Hose hockey field, named in her honour.



• Kathy in her hockey days.

"Times" Crossword

QUICK PUZZLE NO. 8169



ACROSS

1. Garment (8)
6. Swift (4)
8. Oven (4)
9. Monkey (8)
10. Creature (5)
11. Consequence (6)
13. Cold (6)
15. Hostility (6)
17. Submissive (6)
19. Growl (5)
22. Bird (8)
23. Barrier (4)
24. Woodwind instrument (4)
25. Examination (8)

DOWN

2. Combination (5)
3. Desire (7)
4. Tool (4)
5. Journalist (8)
6. Concentrate (5)
7. Pan (7)
12. Indolence (8)
14. Plant (7)
16. Tower (7)
18. Courageous (5)
20. Rule (5)
21. Move (4)

• Solution next issue.

“Country” Theme Headlines Pacing Cup:

(By Jenny Pollard)

The dress code was “Relaxed Country” and the marketing called on race-goers to kit up in “Akubras and boots”.

The 2025 Charlton Pacing Cup homed in on all things rural with the theme “We’re All Country” as patrons responded with gusto at last Sunday’s premier meet of the year.

The social opening began at 11 a.m. with the well-supported “Bubbles in the Bush” – an initiative which raises funds for research into ovarian cancer and runs in conjunction with Team Teal through the harness racing fraternity. Founded by racing enthusiast, Duncan McPherson, OAM, the cause is a tribute to his wife Lyn who passed away from ovarian cancer in 2010.

The Charlton Harness Racing Club’s original “Bubbles” event was aimed at drawing more women to race day while also using the opportunity to shine a light on women’s health. The club developed a strong partnership with St. John of God Hospital Bendigo (SJOG) and this has continued over the years with representatives attending and sharing outreach and informa-

tion about the evolution of medical responses to women’s cancer journeys. This year’s guest speaker, Claire Pysing (Nurse Manager – Day Oncology Unit) was once again on hand to share updates with the crowd on a range of developments introduced over the past twelve months.

Welcome

Before Claire’s address, the morning session was opened by event co-ordinators Leanne Fanning (a cancer survivor herself) and Bec Heenan giving a welcome to all and a recap on the amazing grand total of \$50,000 which “Bubbles” has raised since its inception. An emotional Leanne said, “As a survivor I know how incredibly grateful I am, along with the thousands of other women – both young and old – who also benefit from this research.”

Thanking major sponsor, St. John of God Bendigo, Leanne also acknowledged the many helpers volunteering their time for fund-raising activities on the day. From pur-

chasing tickets for the raffle and the spinning wheel, placing a signature on the silent auction sheets, buying a teal ribbon or placing a bid during the live auction patrons’ generosity was dedicated towards finding answers in the ongoing quest to treat cancer.

St. John of God, Bendigo

A regular representative of SJOG, Claire Pysing’s address was particularly significant this year, as she herself had undergone treatment (successfully) for breast cancer. Noting SJOG’s affiliation with “Bubbles” since 2018, Claire revealed the statistics for cancer in 2024 came in at almost 170,000 diagnoses, with around 52,700 of these resulting in death. Emphasizing the importance of cancer research, which has improved statistics from 68% to 70% over the past seven years, Claire outlined the facility’s capacity to offer treatments five days a week, and said they were pleased to welcome Dr. Amy Davies, whose experience in treating organ cancers and ongoing academic research was a significant boost to the team. McGrath Breast Care Nurse Consultant, Shanya Beattie was also acknowledged for her supportive and informative work.

The additional implementation of three new services in 2024 included: the “Joy”



• Guest speaker Claire Pysing from SJOG Bendigo (centre) is pictured following her presentation to the crowd with “Bubbles” co-ordinators, Bec Heenan (left) and Leanne Fanning (right).

program, which provides a low-cost option for families to access private maternity care; the Cardiac Assessment Unit, which provides life-saving intervention and care for people who suffer heart conditions or chest pain; and the Wig Library, to help people with cancer.

Claire also acknowledged the Charlton Lions Club which was one of the many donors supporting the purchase of the \$2.5 million Da Vinci XI surgical robot which performed its first surgery on March 12.

In concluding her address Claire said “I hope that one day we will find a cure for cancer. It’s events like these that will help us to achieve that goal.”

Rising Star of Harness Racing

An interview with the upcoming female harness racing driver, Abby Sanderson, conducted by Frank McGrath, gave an insight to the background of this young sportswoman, who is now based at Murchison after the family’s move from Charlton.

Showing a prodigious beginning in this sporting code, nineteen-year-old Abby has already clocked up a win in the \$100,000 VHRC Caduceus Club Classic at Melton in 2023, along with being the youngest harness racing driver to win the prestigious \$50,000 Mildura Pacing Cup in 2024, after her brother Ryan won the same race the previous year.

With a life-long love of horses fueling thoughts of an equine-based career, Abby

• Continued on page 9.



• Bubbles were an important part of the day especially for visitors (left and right) Isabelle Jamieson and Josie Williams.



• Showcasing the relaxed country dress codes were winners of the spot prizes and the “Country Lady of the Day” (Kristy O’Gorman second right) with (left to right) Beck Maddocks, Tia Fanning, Marea Judd and Stella Nicholson.

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



“There must be an easier way to do this!”

Ladies' Dress Codes Among the Winners

• **Continued from page 8.** also shared the commitment needed for a normal race day itinerary, which starts early in the morning and often doesn't finish until late at night if travelling for races. She also acknowledged the vibrant harness racing scene in Charlton.

A New Initiative

As the morning progressed a replacement for the Fashions on the Field saw the introduction of the "Country Lady of the Day" award. The inaugural winner, Kristy O'Gorman was announced

along with four spot prize winners, including Beck Maddocks (Moyston), Tia Fanning, Marea Judd and Stella Nicholson. Winners of the silent auction were also announced before John Tormey and Kevin Thompson launched into the all-important live auction. With items ranging from a pizza oven through to accommodation packages, vouchers, hair and beauty services, fine dining, sporting experiences and country clothing items, there was plenty to entice the crowd

to bid hard and high to support the cause. Charlton Harness Racing Club acknowledged the generosity of sponsors and donors for all the items made available for this fundraising effort.

In concluding the morning all attendees were then invited to stand as Bec Heenan and Leanne Fanning read out the following statement: "While the focus of today is about having fun and raising funds, it also provides us all with an opportunity to reflect on how cancer has touched our lives, for the ones who have sadly left us, for the warriors who continue to fight and for the survivors. We now ask you to stand and observe a minute's silence in their honour."

The race day program then unfolded and patrons were able to party on into the evening.



• Racing patrons were encouraged to "Leave their hats on" for the country theme at this year's Cup day. President of the Charlton Harness Racing Club, Andrea O'Gorman (second left) made time to enjoy the relaxed atmosphere with friends (left to right) Louise Mattick, Kristy O'Gorman, Tracey Amarank and Irene Parker.



• Frank McGrath is pictured with young harness racing star Abby Sanderson who shared insights to the behind-the-scenes work involved in pursuing a career in this sport.



• A sizable crowd turned out in support for this year's "Bubbles in the Bush" at Sunday's Charlton Pacing Cup. An overcast morning, with a light shower or two did nothing to dampen the enthusiasm of those supporting the "Bubbles" event.

Charlton 100 Years Ago

(Information from "East Charlton Tribune")

March 14 to 18, 1925.

Convent Pupils: The following are the results of the Theoretical Examination held in December last in connection with Trinity College of Music, London: Junior Division – Alice Grady (honours); Preparatory Division – Alice Grady (honours), Margaret Sait (honours), Gladys Bertoli (honours), Kathleen Hurley (honours). Alice Grady was also successful in passing the Junior Practical Examination in the same College. George Sait, having obtained the highest marks, will receive the medal awarded.

New School Committee: Parents attended in fairly large numbers to elect the School Committee for the next triennial period. The seven chosen were Messrs A. E. Bilton, C. Procter, C. V. Clark, C. Hando, G. S. Hudson, F. J. Edwards and C. O. Rowland. New members of the committee are Messrs Roland and Edwards.

Gift from Charlton: For the Wycheproof Hospital, Mr G. S. Hudson, Presbyterian Church Charlton, forwarded boxes of fruit and vegetables, being proceeds of Harvest Thanksgiving gifts. The donation was notified at the monthly meeting of the

Committee of the Hospital Board of Management.

Barrakee's Loss: Keen regret was felt in Barrakee, Charlton and surrounding district when it became known that Mrs Mary S. Jenkyn had passed away at Charlton. Deceased had been ailing for some time. The late Mrs Jenkyn was born at Clunes, and came to Barrakee at an early age. She was the eldest daughter of Mr and the late Mrs R. Mitchell of Barrakee. For many years she had taken a keen interest in the welfare of the district, and had played a particularly active part in Church matters, earning the esteem of all with whom she came in contact. Besides her husband, she leaves four sons (Thomas, Richard, Bertram and Harry); four step-daughters Olive, Lilian, Myrtle and Violet); one step-son (Ray); 3 brothers (Richard, John and William); and 4 sisters (Mrs J. Edwards, Mrs H. Williams, Mrs Cyril Dew and Mrs E. W. Holland).

Popular Personality: Charlton realised with a sense of shock that the familiar figure of Mr Kenneth Smith – "Kenny" as he was popularly known – would be seen no

more in its streets. The late Mr Smith was born at the Sandhill, near Charlton, and was 61 years of age. He had resided in Charlton practically all his life, except for periods of shearing and boundary riding in New South Wales. At one period the late Mr Smith acted as barman at the Cricket Club Hotel for two years. Then he was manager of the Wooroonook Hotel for about a year. Finally, he took the position of barman at the East Charlton Hotel, where he remained until his illness overtook him some 3 weeks ago. Mr Smith, who was a born horseman, rode at several country meetings. He leaves a widow, and a son Jack.

HES Memorial: Purchased out of the funds raised by the Ladies' Committee last year, the very fine enlargement of a photo of the late Mr Ben Green in golfing costume was handed over to the HES. Mr Green was one of the foremost in the movement for the establishment of a HES in Charlton – which was one of the first established in the State. After the school was established the late Mr Green continued to take the keenest interest in it. For some time he acted as tennis coach. This of

course he was thoroughly qualified to do, having been Amateur Champion of Victoria for two years. Knowing Mr Green's interest in the school, his family had donated £100, the interest from which would provide a perpetual prize fund.

Inter-School Sport: When the Sea Lake cricket and tennis teams arrived by train the Charlton staff and pupils were there en masse to meet and greet them. The visiting students were billeted in the homes of the Charlton scholars. The tennis match was played on Friday afternoon and the evening was devoted to a concert, items of which were interspersed with games. Charlton won the tennis 7 sets to 1. The team was Edna Arundell, Freda Edwards, A. Arundell, M. McNeil and G. Edwards. Cricket – Sea Lake won by 6 wickets. Charlton players – G. McMaster, G. Fitzgerald, S. Thompson, F. Young, R. Hetherington, J. Paterson, J. Dew, G. Hando, R. Edwards, G. Peart, J. Teasdale.

Coonooer Bridge Sports: The attendance at the annual sports gathering, held on the property of Mr J. Williams,



• Ben Green Esquire.

exceeded all expectations. Visitors were present from Geelong, Ballarat, Charlton, St Arnaud, Donald, Birchip and elsewhere. The weather was fine, the course in good order and the officials worked well. The publican's booth was conducted by Mr W. Taynton. The afternoon tea was freely patronised, the

fruit and lolly booth had plenty of patrons, and the savoley and roll vendors did good business. There was horse racing, a novelty pony trot, handicap wood chop and Stepping the Distance. The gathering concluded with a ball, held in the mechanics hall, at which a large number attended.

Year 11s' Work Experience

Year 11 students recently undertook a week's work experience from March 3 to 7. Ten students travelled to Ballarat to work at a variety of workplaces and one remained in Donald.

Students worked in the fields of kindergarten, education, hair and beauty, accountancy, building and construction, steel fabrication, electrical and agricultural machinery maintenance.

Not only did the students gain insight to future careers, but they learnt about commuting to work via the Ballarat bus system. Despite some fears and missed buses, all successfully found their destinations and gained much self-confidence.

They also learnt about early starts, meal planning, wearing appropriate work attire and the sometimes

challenging routine of work. Even though some students worked in an occupation or workplace that may not suit them, they all learnt something about themselves and working amongst people they previously hadn't.

Over the past few years, the school has expanded its bank of employers in a wider range of industries to offer a broader range of options for our students. Two ex-Donald High students, Bryce Abbott and Tim Rickard, who both have successful building businesses in Ballarat, once again hosted two boys for work experience and picked them up and delivered them home

each day, which was greatly appreciated.

In the evenings, students got to eat out and go to the movies and bowling, and for some, an opportunity to catch up with family and friends.

Mr Rigby and Mrs Medlyn, the teachers accompanying the students to Ballarat, received nothing but positive comments on the way the students conducted themselves and were very pleased and proud of the student's attitude and achievements.

All students received very positive employer evaluations for their work. Several were also offered apprenticeships. Very well done to all of you.



• *Jaya Stirling.*



• *Asha Pearse.*

Community Update Buloke.



Eabha Polzin (left) and Hannah Cook (right)

Celebrating our most successful Swimming Pool Season

With our 2024/25 swimming pool season ending on 16 March 2025, we look back and celebrate our most successful season ever.

Some fun facts from the season:

- All of our seven pools opened every day of the season totalling 114 consecutive days with closure only on Christmas Day as scheduled and Sea Lake Pool, which was closed for one day due to a technical issue
- The 2024/25 pool season was the first season each pool had opened every day, since our records began in 2007
- The busiest week of the season was over the Christmas/New Year period with almost 2000 visits across all seven pools throughout the week
- A total of just over 30,000 visits to our pools across the shire for the 2024/25 pool season

The success of this year's season could not have been possible without the support of our amazing team of 49 lifeguards.

We thank them all for their hard work and commitment to keeping our pools open and also thank our local Buloke Shire community for making our pools part of their summer.

Temporary closure of Wooroonook Lake Toilets

The toilet facilities at the Wooroonook Lakes are temporarily closed until further notice. Portable toilets are currently provided onsite however shower facilities are not available.



Employment Opportunities with Buloke

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

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

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

Administration Assistant (Casual) -
From \$42.12 per hour (incl. casual loading + statutory superannuation)

→ **Applications Close: 21 March 2025**

We are looking for an enthusiastic individual to join Council's Customer Engagement Team as an Administration Assistant. Successful applicants will join a casual pool of candidates who will be allocated shifts on an as needed basis. In this role you will be working alongside staff to provide administrative support to various Council departments and business units, as well as providing sound customer service to the community.



• *Nicki Sak.*



• *Luca Rice.*



• *Baxter Donnellon.*



Phone: 1300 520 520
www.buloke.vic.gov.au



Pastures and Fodder Crops Lower Weed Numbers



• With a wide range of the WeedSmart Big 6 strategies in place, the Molloy family is farming in a low-weed environment and minimising the risk of herbicide resistance. (Photo: WeedSmart).

(Cindy Benjamin, WeedSmart)

A robust crop and pasture rotation and strong crop competition are very effective strategies in mixed farming operations to keep weed numbers low in grain crops. The flow-on effect of the low weed numbers is that there is less selection pressure on herbicides.

Michael and Leanne Molloy and their sons Josh and Matt run a fully integrated mixed farming enterprise on properties south of Wagga Wagga, NSW, where mixed species brown manure crops and legume pastures provide fodder for the sheep, boost soil fertility and control grass weeds.

The 1900-ha aggregation of farms in the Yerong, The Rock and Henty districts centres on a winter cropping program that includes 1100 ha of wheat, canola and barley harvested for grain, 550 ha sown to perennial legume pasture and 100 ha of vetch-mix fodder. The vetch-mix fodder crop is brown-manured, and the perennial legume pasture phase runs for 4 to 6 years, providing multiple benefits to the Molloy's farming system.

The remaining 150 ha is less arable and more frost-prone, so these paddocks are cropped less frequently, staying in a perennial pasture phase of lucerne, tall fescue, Phalaris, and clover for about ten years.

The Molloy's run 3200 merino ewes and a flock of merino wethers, which they use as a relief valve to lighten the stocking rate if conditions dry off. The sheep are an integral part of the cropping system, grazing on short-term perennial pastures, vetch-mix fodder crops and crop stubble to make the best use of the 520 mm average annual rainfall.

Annual ryegrass is the main weed on the Molloy's farms, along with some broadleaf weeds, but overall, their farming system keeps weed numbers very low. In 2017, the Molloy's purchased a new farm near The Rock, which had been cropped continuously for many years. Michael says it took a few years to bring the weed numbers down using their system, but the black oats and ryegrass seed banks have now been reduced to very low levels.

Using the WeedSmart Big 6 tactics keeps weed numbers low and reduces the risk of herbicide resistance in the Molloy's mixed farming enterprise.

The Molloy's use a short-to-medium crop rotation that includes a brown manure cover crop and a pasture phase. Generally, the crop sequence is canola, wheat, canola, wheat and barley, then a mixed-species fodder crop, followed by canola and wheat, then a 4- to 6-year legume pasture phase before returning to grain production.

The mixed-species fodder crop is usually vetch-based with other species such as



• Michael Molloy says that their mixed-species fodder crops provide multiple benefits to their farming system, including highly palatable and nutritious fodder for their cross-bred lambs, soil fertility and structure rejuvenation and strategic grass weed control. (Photo: WeedSmart)

buster radish, purple top brassica and arrowleaf clover to provide soil nutrition and structure benefits, and a cereal, such as Illabo wheat, to provide early biomass. This highly palatable and nutritious fodder is used mainly to finish the cross-bred lambs.

Michael sprays out the grass weeds and cereals from the vetch-mix in late August, then brown manures the paddock in late October, providing strategic control of annual ryegrass. Canola is sown the following season, serving as a double break for grass weed control. They can then plant wheat into a very low weed seed bank environment.

The legume pasture mix includes barley, lucerne, sub-clover and arrowleaf/balansa clovers. Two years prior to termination of the pasture phase, the annual grass weeds are spray-topped then the pasture is spray-fallowed (brown-manured) the following spring, leading into the crop phase.

There is less selection pressure on herbicides during the pasture phase than during the cropping phase – a valuable strategy to keep key herbicides working in the Molloy's farming system long into the future.

The Molloy's plant their crops on 250 mm row spacing using a tined planter with presswheels. They have a partial controlled traffic farming

system where they sow with a 9 m wide bar and spray and spread on 27 m widths, but their harvester is not aligned with these wheeltracks.

They have conducted electromagnetic (EM) surveys combined with a comprehensive soil testing program to map areas of sodic and acidic soils across the farms. Using segmented soil testing for pH and sodicity, they identified three variable rate zones for gypsum and lime.

Canola is a vital crop in their weed management program. To maximise crop competition, they grow hybrid Clearfield canola varieties, ensure good soil health, fertilise to yield potential, establish an even stand at optimal plant density and sow their crops early. Michael has adopted recommendations from Rohan Brill's research in the region, which clearly showed the yield and weed control benefits that flow from sowing hybrid canola early to increase early crop vigour.

Over summer, the sheep graze in all their cropping paddocks, utilising the stubble, sprayed weeds and volunteer crop plants. This grazing pressure on stubbles complements the summer weed control program.

For more information about mixed farming weed management, visit the WeedSmart at www.weedsmart.org.au

Thinking of Keeping Backyard Chooks?

(Dr Jeff Cave, Senior Veterinary Officer, Northern Region)

Chickens can be a great addition to your home, filling various roles such as producing eggs, fertilising gardens, eating your food scraps, plus being a pet and providing companionship for the family.

The most trouble-free chickens to purchase are vaccinated hens at the point of lay (16 – 18 weeks) from a reliable commercial source. You will need at least 2 as chickens are social animals.

Chickens need a well-drained and well-ventilated pen, with enough space to ensure chickens don't fight, and is functional and easy to clean.

A chicken house should give shade from direct sunlight plus water proofing from rain, particularly where the chickens roost and lay. It works well if the chicken house is located under a tree for shade.

The chicken house should be north facing with an eve about a metre long to protect from the summer sun but let the light in during winter. Make sure the house is tall enough to stand up in. Cover the floor with sawdust to form a deep litter for the chicken's droppings.

Make sure the chicken house is fox proof and unless the sides are attached to a wooden or concrete floor, dig them into the soil to a depth of at least a half a metre.

Make sure there are no gaps that predators could get in, there are secured catches and locks, and consider using a fox light.

For chickens that are not allowed to roam outside their pen clip one wing, not both, to prevent them from flying. Always secure your chickens in the chicken house before the end of the day.

Nesting boxes need to be off the ground, be deep and fairly dark for seclusion, and regularly add fresh straw. Ideally build the house with outside access to the nesting boxes.

Perches for roosting need to be wide enough for the



chickens to comfortably stand on, at a jumping height and the right thickness for their feet.

Chickens are naturally omnivores, so they eat a variety of foods. Pellets are a satisfactory food source but can be supplemented with food scraps.

Don't feed more scraps than the chickens can consume or else the leftovers will attract vermin and create odours, don't give food scraps that are mouldy or have gone off otherwise your chickens may become sick. Give a source of calcium such as shell grit to help form their eggs.

Commercially available feeders and water dispensers work well – have them off the ground to keep them clean. A round feeder is good for the pecking order as the weaker chicken can be on the other side of the circle and not beside the dominant chicken.

Provide enough pellets for no more than one week to prevent them from becoming stale. Chickens also need continual access to clean, fresh water – they drink a lot.

Monitor your chickens daily for their health, egg production, and food and water availability, and collect their eggs daily. Regularly clean your chicken coop including



feeders, drinkers and equipment, and frequently replace nesting materials.

Always wash your hands with warm water and soap after handling birds, eggs or other materials in the coop.

Agriculture Victoria is currently responding to an outbreak of H7N8 avian influenza (bird flu) on four Victorian poultry farms. A housing requirement is now in place only for properties with 50 or more birds in the restricted area.

This disease detection serves as a reminder for all bird owners to routinely monitor the health of their birds. If you suspect your birds are sick, contact your local vet or call the all-hours Emergency Animal Disease Hotline on 1800 675 888.

To avoid this happening to your flock avoid contact between poultry and wild birds, keep feed and water in a protected place where wild birds can't access, and keep your poultry away from water sources frequented by wild birds such as streams, dams, ponds and even puddles. Limit visitors to your birds and use clean footwear.

Trash to Treasure

One person's Trash is another's Treasure!
Turn your Trash into Cash by advertising it for sale in the "Times" classified pages.

Phone the Donald office (5497 1222), or Birchip (5492 2735); email advertising@buloketimes.com

Grade 6 Leadership Day

On Tuesday, March 4, the Grade 6s went to Horsham for a leadership day, and the person who was running it was named Lorin.

Lorin is someone who was born with 10% eyesight and now only has 6%. He is a motivational speaker and tells stories about his life being blind.

The students had a day full of inspirational information including: "Be grateful you have eyesight", and "Don't be

afraid to follow your dreams".

Lorin spoke about how he wanted to ride his bike to the beach when he was young. He was bullied so much about it but then one day he hopped on his bike and started riding with his dad in front of him, so that he was safe. Lorin knew when there was a car

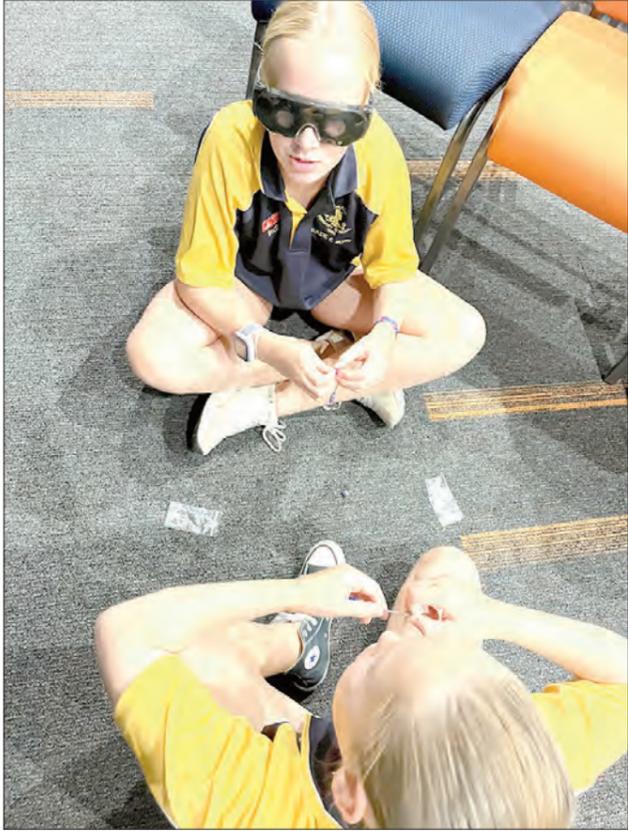


coming because he was really good at hearing. It took him two-and-a-half days to ride 275kms just to get to the beach. Once he got back to school he showed all of his friends that he actually made it with a picture.

"They handed glasses out to everyone so that we could feel what it was like to only have 6% eyesight. We then had to make keychains with those glasses on and we couldn't really see so we just did it with memory. We had a very fun day, I wish we could do it again." – Indi Goldsmith Grade 6.

Summer Sports

"Last Thursday the Grade 5/6s went to St Arnaud to participate in the Summer Sports. We played at Lord Nelson Oval. We played against Birchip, St Mary's and St Arnaud, we played 3 games of cricket. One against St Arnaud, one against Birchip and one against St Mary's. Together we showed great sportsmanship and tried our best. Birchip was the winner but at least we had a 'Red Hot Go'." - Charlotte Perry, Grade 5



• A grade 6 student testing out what it would be like to have 6% vision using specialised glasses.



• The grade 5/6 class enjoyed their day at the Summer Sports.



• The grade 5/6 group with guest speaker Lorin Nicholson.



• One of the Donald Primary School teams playing against Birchip with Mr Young umpiring.

Donald Probian's Meet

Donald Combined Probus Club members conducted their Annual General Meeting at their March meeting.

The following members were re-elected for another term of office and thanked for their work during 2024.

Ian McEwen will once again carry out the duties of president, Susan Morse as secretary and Brian Brasier as

treasurer. Most other positions were filled quickly and the club looks forward to another busy year.

Pianist Mrs Bev. Gilmour has retired from this position which she has held for many years and is thanked for sharing her musical talents with us so willingly. Mrs Isabelle Flett has now stepped up into that role. We are lucky to have such capable members in our club.

Guest speaker for this meeting was local author Sammy Davies, who writes under different names depending on her book titles.

She was born in Melbourne, the eldest of four children, and says she always had a great imagination making up games to play.

Her passion for writing commenced with family, as both her grandfathers were good storytellers. Her paternal grandfather, who was born in Boort and grew up as a drover's son, told them repeated stories. Her maternal grandfather came from Ireland. He came to Australia with the Australian Army when aged 18, so he also shared lots of stories about his life.

Writing became a way for Sammy to turn anger and pain into creative writing about her life's experiences.

Sammy married and had three sons, one is about to write his first novel.

Although she has had other positions in her career like becoming a youth worker, it is now writing that occupies her time. This also involves research and she is about to embark on a Bachelor of Arts with a focus on English Literature, which will give her a qualification to teach.

Sammy writes for a younger audience under the pen name, Davis McAlonan. Her spicy and murderous books are published under S.L. Davies. She enjoys writing romance, crime and horror books, and the MA to R-rated ones are published under Samuel Davies because males sell crime books better than females. Her latest book will be released this month.



AMBULANCE PHONE NO. 000

Blue-Green Algae Warning Lake Wallace Recreational

Lake Wallace Recreational water users are advised to avoid direct contact with water in Lake Wallace in Edenhope, following the detection of elevated blue-green algae levels.

Visitors can still enjoy recreational activities such as bushwalking, sightseeing and other activities at the lake that do not involve direct water contact.

Warning signs have been positioned at major recreational areas around the lake

and will remain in place until blue-green algae levels drop below the threshold considered safe for recreational use.

Recommendations

• Avoid all contact with affected water.

• Affected water should not be used for cooking, drinking, washing/showering or any other domestic use. Boiling the affected water will not make it safe to use.

• If you come into contact with the affected water, you should wash the area of skin exposed immediately in clean water.

• Those experiencing any health issues after being in contact with blue-green algae

affected water should seek immediate medical advice.

Blue-Green Algae Facts

• Blue-green algae occurs naturally and can be dangerous to humans and animals.

• Characteristic signs of algae contact are skin rashes or itchiness, sore eyes, ears and nose; or if swallowed, nausea or vomiting.

• Pet owners should prevent pets from drinking or having direct contact with blue-green algae affected water.

• Blooms are common in warmer months and quickly spread when there are nutrients in the water and low or no water inflows.

• Blue-green algal blooms may appear near the water's edge discolouring the water. It may also have a strong musty or earthy smell.

• It is not possible to predict how long the algae will remain at high levels within the lake.

Anglers wanting more information please visit Victorian Fisheries Authority at www.vfa.vic.gov.au and search on "blue-green algae".

The lake will be monitored regularly and the community will be kept informed of any changes regarding blue-green algae alerts through a disruptions page at www.gwmwater.org.au/bga



Donald Golf Decides Drawn Fours

With skipper Stewart Hollis guiding his team with precision, and combining well with Peter Raynes, George Bowles and Colleen Raynes, the quartet took out Donald Golf Bowls Club's drawn fours event on Saturday.



• Colleen Raynes, playing lead for the winning team.

Starting at 9 a.m. to beat the forecast hot temperature later in the day, a relatively small field of three teams took part in the annual tournament, games being played over 10 ends.

In an elimination match up, Stewart Hollis (skipper), Peter Raynes, George Bowles and Colleen Raynes 9 defeated Shane O'Shea (s), Tony Dionisopoulos, Beris Jones and Geoff Stopps 8.

And in the deciding game, the Stewart Hollis combination 11 defeated Brian Brasier, Enid Brasier, Joyce Hollis and David Peake (s) 5.

To round out an enjoyable day, all participants shared a pizza lunch.

Mixed Pairs

Next Saturday, March 22, will see the final club event contested, with entries in the mixed pairs to be submitted by Friday afternoon.

Play will commence at 12.30, with the club's break up and award presentations to take place during the evening.

All members are urged to attend, and to provide a salad.



• Winners are grinners: Skipper Stewart Hollis (left) with his victorious team members, Peter Raynes, Colleen Raynes and George Bowles.



• Second, George Bowles, is a study of concentration as he delivers his bowl.



• Peter Raynes signals three shots to the Stewart Hollis team during Saturday's final. Also pictured are, from left, Brian Brasier, Enid Brasier (partly obscured), George Bowles, and at right, Joyce Hollis.



• Donald Golf's seasoned bowling campaigner, Stewart Hollis, leads from the front during Saturday's drawn fours event.



• Skippers for the day, Shane O'Shea (left) and David Peake, deliver their bowls.





• St. Arnaud's 2024-'25 Division 1 premiership team and North Central Playing Area representative in Sunday's Wimmera Region Weekend Pennant playoff: Back row, left to right, Phil McRae, Allan Welsh, Steven Zsigmond (skipper), Darren Shepherd, Tony Marland, Greg McNally. Front: Terry McSwain (skipper), Ashley Dyke (skipper), Thomas Amos, Maurie Wood, Glendon Hancock, Colin Marchment.

Chalambar Claims Wimmera Pennant Crown

Grampians Playing Area representative Chalambar Golf is the toast of Wimmera bowls after taking out the Region's Weekend Pennant playoff after winning two of its three games at Wycheproof on Sunday.

The pennant season decider was contested on Sunday to avoid Saturday's extreme weather, with conditions being vastly different, the temperature almost half that of the previous day's maximum, combined with blustery wind and intermittent skiffy showers early in the day which tested the skill of all competitors on the very well presented green.

North Central representative, St. Arnaud, started well, accounting for Wimmera

representative, Nhill, in the opening round, winning two rinks, Ashley Dyke against Kevin Jones by 13 shots, and Steven Zsigmond by 9 shots over Greg Ryan.

Terry McSwain's team could not match the scoring of Allan King's quartet, and lost by 15, giving St. Arnaud a 7-shot winning margin overall.

Warracknabeal Golf (North Wimmera) and Chalambar Golf (Grampians), staged a ding-dong battle with

Warrack. getting home by just 2 shots.

In round 2, Warracknabeal Golf proved too consistent for St. Arnaud, winning all three rinks by a combined margin of 12 shots.

Chalambar Golf found its line and length against Nhill to win by 10 shots, each team securing a winning rink, with Shane Todd and Kevin Jones having to settle for a draw.

Warracknabeal Golf was in the box seat to take out the title, having won both its games, but stumbled at the final hurdle, going down to Nhill by 6 shots.

This result left the door ajar for the fast-finishing Chalambar Golf, which had all the answers to St. Arnaud's challenge, conceding only one rink, St. Arnaud's Terry McSwain winning by 4 shots, but Shane Todd accounted for Ashley Dyke by 4 shots, and Jess Austin downed Steven Zsigmond by 12.

A winning margin of 12 shots saw the Grampians representative finished the day on top of the ladder with 2 wins and a percentage of 117.3, ahead Warracknabeal Golf 2 wins and 107.1, Nhill 1 win, 91.6 and St. Arnaud 1 win, 81.6.

Chalambar Golf will now represent the Wimmera Region at the next level, at Moama, in April.

Details:

Round 1
St. Arnaud (North Central) 47 d. Nhill (Wimmera) 40.

Darren Shepherd, Colin Marchment, Phil McRae, Ashley Dyke (s) 21 d. Matthew Morrison, Barry Morrison, Brad Blackwood, Kevin Jones (s) 8.

Thomas Amos, Greg McNally, Glendon Hancock, Steven Zsigmond (s) 19 d. Phil Henseleit, Barry Cramer, Roger Brown, Greg Ryan (s) 10.

Tony Marland, Maurie Wood, Allan Welsh, Terry McSwain (s) 7 lost to Ray Olney, Russell Dunlop, Ivan Reichelt, Allan King (s) 22.

Warracknabeal Golf (North Wimmera) 37 d. Chalambar Golf (Grampians) 35.

Barry Holland, Gary Bellis, Russell Miller, Warren Perris (s) 16 d. Hanz Holz, Michael Jennings, Tony Carra, Shane Todd (s) 10.

Jim Thomas, Dawn Walton, Brian Gunn, Roger Perris (s) 12 drew with Gary Todd, Bill Waterson, Grant Seary, Jess Austin (s) 12.

Wayne Gove, Bill Russ, Bruce Wilson, Michael Marchment (s) 9 lost to Michael Franklin, Richard Harricks, Mark Griffiths, Chris Young (s) 13.

Round 2
Warracknabeal Golf 46 d. St. Arnaud 34.

Warren Perris 14 d. Ashley Dyke 9, Roger Perris 16 d. Steven Zsigmond 10, Michael Marchment 16 d. Terry McSwain 15

Chalambar Golf 48 d. Nhill 38.

Shane Todd 15 drew with Kevin Jones 15, Jess Austin 14 lost to Greg Ryan 17, Chris Young 19 d. Allan King 6.

Round 3
Chalambar Golf 52 d. St. Arnaud 40.

Ashley Dyke 16 lost to Shane Todd 20, Steven Zsigmond 9 lost to Jess Austin 21, Terry McSwain 15 d. Chris Young 11.

Nhill 43 d. Warracknabeal Golf 37.

Brad Blackwood 17 d. Warren Perris 11, Greg Ryan 14 lost to Roger Perris 17, Allan King 12 d. Michael Marchment 9.

Birchip Mid-Week Bowls

Thursday was the day when the finals of the Pairs Own Partners Championship was completed.

The day started off pleasant, and the bowling was excellent. The first game I watched was Pauline Bragg and Lesley Whitting playing Carolyn Reid and Jackie Tierney. Pauline was again bowling very well, but Carolyn and Jackie were scoring higher as the game was scored as for 100-up. Persistence pays off as Carolyn and Jackie took the game.

After a short break Carolyn and Jackie then played Peg Hogan and Moya Connelly. Although Peg and Moya were both bowling well, they came up against a very determined pair, Jackie and Carolyn were more consistent; again the scoring system was as 100-up favouring Carolyn and Jackie, who were able to have at least one of their bowls on or near the jack. The final score, Carolyn and Jackie 107 shots to Peg and Moya's 73.



• Jackie Tierney and Carolyn Reid.

It is unfortunate that we now have a small club with some members unable to play. The championship events suffer from this, but it is a sign of the times. All clubs are suffering from lack of members, so consider coming along and trying the game of bowling. AGE IS NO BARRIER.

To the grey team, good luck in the coming events; also to the ladies attending tournaments. The Birchip Ladies triples tournament is to be held on March 20 with several teams coming from as far as Swan Hill, Boort etc.

"Off the Green"

**YOU LIGHT IT,
YOU OWN IT.**
ANY SPARK CAN START A FIRE.

CRIME STOPPERS
1800 333 000
Victoria

VICTORIA POLICE

Victoria adopts a zero-tolerance approach to deliberately or recklessly lit fires and will pursue anyone who causes a bushfire, regardless of intent.

A recklessly lit or abandoned fire is a crime that carries severe penalties.

The maximum penalty for intentionally or recklessly causing a bushfire is 15 years imprisonment.

Bushfire arson, whether deliberate or reckless, can cause loss of life, widespread destruction of property or

heightened fear within the community.

If you know something, say something!

www.police.vic.gov.au/bushfire-arson

www.cfa.vic.gov.au/warnings-restrictions/fire-bans-ratings-and-restrictions/can-i-or-cant-i

Catalpa Rescue Wins Charlton Cup

• Continued from page 16.

with the win. Perhaps it was the small change of gear.

Highlights

- All the activities on course.
- All the sponsors (32).
- Driving doubles to lady drivers Kerry Manning and Ellen Tormey.
- Winners with plenty of owners.
- Building complex full of patrons.

Grapevine

On the grapevine some interesting changes coming very shortly to some clubs.

My Comment Only!

It seems some people are making some unreal proposals at the moment. Small country trainers rely on small country tracks to try and get a winner. Please keep it that way.



• With the Cup Day theme "We're All Country" Jess White (GMG Financial Sponsor) and Amy Nicholson (N.W. Ag Services sponsor) bring the cups on course on the back of a ute.



• Part of the very big crowd watching the field coming around the final bend in the Charlton Pacing Cup.



• Left: A very proud father Neville Bellman with his son Michael. On Saturday night Michael drove his 2000th winner at Mount Gambier. Both of his parents drove winners early in their careers at the same track.

• Right: Presentation of the Community Bank Charlton and District Pacing Cup. Katrina Ainsworth H.R.V. member, Je-Anne McVicar-Williams (bank manager), Rob Auber (M.C.), Shane Sanderson (trainer) and Paul Lowry (part owner) after the win of Catalpa Rescue.



Bowlers Drawn to Donald for Labour Day Tournament

• Continued from page 16.

The event was very well sponsored thanks to the work of Ray Gravestocks securing funding from new sponsors, such as the Echuca Auto Group, along with the local Michael's group, which provided a couple of new Ford vehicles and colourful banners. Others such as Greg's Digging from Birchip, the RMG and Road Stabilising Group, AJ Baines, Sam Phe-

lan, Sam Barnes and Leigh Nunn Building.

These, coupled with our long term sponsors Pea Co., Community Bank, Donald Auto Electrical, North West Ag, Dunstan Wool and many Donald businesses which supported the substantial raffle prizes.

It was great to see four teams from Nyah on Saturday and Robert Dunstan returning from North Wendouree.

Beryl Milne and her catering crew did well with two big days with lunches and afternoon teas.

The day was played under a flag half mast with the recent shock passing of one of our team's icons, Jack Collins. We will miss JC and his oft repeated quips across our green and we pass our condolences to his family.

"Tiger in the Ditch"



• Fours event runners-up: Geoff Rigby, Stewart Hollis, Tony Dianopolous, David Peake.



• Triples runners-up: Luke Kelly, Rex Howard and Rod Wickham.



• Fours event winners: Simon Elliott, Danny Mullins, Paul Mullins and Phill Elliott.

Catalpa Rescue Wins Charlton Cup

(By Peter Hibberd)

Charlton president Andrea O’Gorman and her team would feel very happy with one of the biggest crowds seen at Charlton for a period of time, on a day which had four seasons in one, and plenty of activities for both young and old.

All the patrons I spoke to were very glad to come, some from long distances.

The pacing cup was not only a quinella for former local trainer, Shane Sanderson, but also for who I call the “Birchip Connection”, owners Paul and Danny Lowry, John Wilson, Robert Hodge, and Max Dillon. This group of owners own both of the horses and have enjoyed success over many years.

In the race, Dangerous, driven by Abby Sanderson took the lead from Catalpa Rescue, driven by Ryan Sanderson. In the home straight, Ryan moved around Abby to give one of the biggest victory salutes seen for a while.

Trotters’ Cup

In a dramatic finish to the Trotters’ Cup, Mercenary, which was leading in the home straight and looking the winner, broke from its trotting gait and paced. Kerryn Manning driving Wish Upon A Dream used the sprint lane to go through and win.

In the stewards’ room, Mercenary was disqualified and the placings amended to Parisian Artiste finishing second and Little Yankee running third.

Mallee Bull Cup

A big group of seventeen part owners enjoyed the success of winning that famous trophy when Lochiel Lad, driven by Ellen Tormey was able to lead. Running even sectionals made it very hard for its opposition to make ground in a 57.8 last half.

Results

Race one: Favourite punters got off to a very good start with the win of Jessicas Story for driver Liam Older. Starting at \$1.40, it used the sprint lane to win.

Race two: Horsham trainer Aaron Dunn produced another horse having its first race start to win. Maxy Can Dance, a three-year-old pacer, sat outside the leader and came away for a very impressive 20-metre win. The dam of this horse has produced horses which have won 32 races.

Race three: Cormack Racing has been a strong supporter of the Charlton Club. They had success with the win of Direct Command, driven by Ellen Tormey. This was another brilliant drive by Ellen, with plenty of early pace, she came around the field to go to the lead, kept the pace on and won comfortably.

Now trained by David Harris, it was great to see former trainer, Greg Norman, on course to celebrate the win. Greg is currently having health issues.

Race four: When a horse comes around the final bend, six wide and wins, it makes you think it must have a lot of ability. Such is the case of Im Lady Rhonda. Trained by Ross Fiscalini and driven by Jackie Barker has raced at the Charlton track on two occasions for two wins and was very well-supported late in betting.

Race five: Trotters’ Cup.

Race six: A trifecta for Charlton trainer Michael Gadsden providing the quinella, and Tori Hutchins with third placegetter Celestial Daybreak, and in fourth place was Birchip trainer, Kevin Sharp’s Reeko Reactor.

Race seven: Pacing Cup.

Race eight: Mallee Bull Cup.

Race nine: Kerryn Manning drove her second winner of the day with The Sportz Star, a horse that she also owns. She blew most punters away at the odds of \$21.00. After the race she was amazed

• Continued on page 15.



• Presentation of the North West Ag Services Charlton Trotters’ Cup. Trainer Rebecca Morrissey, driver Kerryn Manning, H.R.V. member Judy Rothacker and Amy Nicholson from North West Ag Services after the win of Wish Upon A Dream.

Bowlers Drawn to Donald for Labour Day Tournament

For lawn bowlers, it was two big days, and a great event managed by Donald Bowling Club’s David Romeo.

Excellent autumn weather and a fast, Norm Hollis-prepared green on Saturday saw a full house of 14 teams from across the region play the two bowl triples.

In the end only two teams won their four games and both finished on 112 points.

On a comeback to shots up, Stewart Hollis with Geoff Rigby, and Bill Livingston from Donald Golf, defeated Rod Wickham with Rex Howard and Luke Kelly by just two shots.

On the Monday after a shower of rain, the green was a little slower but drew well, and it turned out to be a huge day for the fours event with 4 games of twelve ends. The day finished with only one team winning the four games, that of Simon Elliot with Danny Mullins, Paul Mullins and Phill Elliot, with 113 points.

• Right: Geoff Rigby.

Runner-up team was Geoff Rigby on the winning list again with Stewart Hollis,

Tony Dianopolous and David Peake with 93 points.

• Continued on page 15.



• The best finish of the day. On the outside The Sportz Star, driven by Kerryn Manning, narrowly defeats Spirit of Sahara driven by Ryan Sanderson. In third place Oh Sweet Creature driven by Jordan Leedham. The margins were ½ head by a nose.



• A stable quinella for Charlton trainer Michael Gadsden. Flexi Bet driven by Jordan Leedham defeats No Emotion driven by Luke Dunne. The win was witnessed by a big group of owners from the Club Merbein Racing Syndicate.



• Triples winners: Bill Livingston, Stewart Hollis, Geoff Rigby.