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The Buloke Times

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Wednesday, March 12, 2025

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

• *Wooroonook Lake.*

Campers Everywhere – Except at Festival Site

They came from all Australian States, and even from overseas. Their destination was the annual Esoteric Music Festival site, north of the Donald township.

Sadly, though the weather was ideal, their journey was cut short by several kilometres, when the popular event was cancelled early on its first day, Thursday last.

They had to camp somewhere overnight, so they took the next best options, as can be seen from photographs in this issue.

Top: Wooroonook Lake has long been a favourite of those who camp or go boating and yabbying, but it's not where most of these hundreds of travellers thought they would be spending the weekend, at the Esoteric Music Festival.

Right: With the Foletti Caravan Park already filled, the opportunity was taken by many to spend hours or days at Donald's Apex Park, between the two Richardson River bridges at the entrance to the town.

• There's more elsewhere in today's "Times".

• *Apex Park.*

• *Optimising farm business successes.*

BCG Riskwi$e Roadshow:

Optimising Farm Business Success

With the cost of farming per hectare at an all-time high, Australian grain growers are facing increasing pressure to make informed, strategic business decisions.

The balance between maximising production and ensuring profitability has never been more critical. While high yields are often seen as the marker of success, understanding the financial and operational risks behind those yields is what sets resilient farm businesses apart.

Recognising this need, BCG is bringing a series of conversations to the North West region as part of the RiskWi$e Roadshow. This initiative responds to calls from growers seeking greater clarity on their business performance, equipping them with the knowledge to improve profitability and long-term sustainability.

Tackling Succession Planning with Confidence

One of the most complex and emotionally charged aspects of farm business management is succession planning. The upcoming session from 9:00 a.m. to 2.30 p.m. on Wednesday, March 12, at the Birchip Community Leisure Centre aims to remove the overwhelm from these discussions.

James Hamilton from Cultivate Advisory will guide participants through understanding behavioural styles, the characteristics of successful farm transitions, and

• **Continued on page 2.**

Decision Flattens Festival-Goers

It's an event which, annually, has drawn lovers of the Great Outdoors to a location in Victoria's Buloke Shire.

From within the State, and from far beyond, they have travelled to enjoy the music and mateship of Donald's Esoteric Festival.

Among them, for instance, were a young man from Holland, and his German companion, both of whom, with hundreds of others, should have been soaking up the perfect weather of Friday morning, scheduled as the Festival's second day.

Instead, they were walking the streets of the town, prior to leaving to return home without having as much as set foot on their Victorian countryside destination.

Far be it from the "Times" to pass judgement on the pros and cons of the decision to cancel the Festival just as the crowds were beginning to arrive.

Recently we published explanations given by the Buloke Shire Council as to why the annual event was called off, then back on, and then off again.

Whilst the disappointment of those directly affected has already been expressed countless times by word of mouth and social media, who could possibly have been more greatly disadvantaged than those responsible for the organisation and presentation of one of country Victoria's biggest outdoor events?

On their behalf, the "Times" records the following messages released by the Esoteric Festival's management.

*

The Buloke Times

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 12, 2025

Background as on the Esoteric Facebook Page

All structures have been approved by licenced engineers and verified by independent and licenced building surveyors. Today Worksafe and Energy Safe Victoria deemed the site safe and the festival organisers have been working closely with the relevant authorities including the EPA, Health Department, Ambulance Victoria, CFA and Victoria Police, who have all consented for the event to go ahead.

Buloke Shire Councillors voted in favour of granting a Permit on Monday with the fate of the festival resting on one person – the Municipal Building Surveyor – who has not completed a site inspection since 2024.

Whether it's Esoteric Musical Festival or Moomba, it is standard practice in the event industry for this particular permit to get approved in the hours before the event given the tight timelines to get the right infrastructure in place.

We have held urgent meetings with the Premier of Victoria and the Minister for Housing and tried everything to get this year's event over the line and we are just completely shattered that this has come down to one person's subjective decision.

A statement from Esoteric Music Festival Managing Director Sam Goldsmith:

We are utterly devastated to announce that Donald's Esoteric Music Festival will not be going ahead this weekend.

To say we are disappointed is an understatement – we are gutted. This is a devastating blow for all involved – from our patrons to the local businesses that have been planning for this all year.

It is bureaucracy and politics gone mad.

Despite overwhelming evidence that the Esoteric Music Festival is safe and compliant to run, we have been left stunned by the decision of the Municipal Building Surveyor not to grant a POPE permit and will now have to postpone the festival until 2026.

Since 2017 this event has been a lifeline for Victoria's regional tourism and live music scene, injecting more than $15 million into the local economy and supporting thousands of jobs in the Wimmera Mallee region.

We implore all of our patrons, please hold on to your ticket for next year so that we can continue running this event and supporting Victoria's north-west region as we have for the past eight years and will come back even stronger in 2026.

Ticket holders will be communicated to directly about the postponement of the festival and offered a full refund if they can't make the next event.

Optimising Farm Business Success

• **Continued from page 1.**

strategies to separate family relationships from business decisions.

With insights from succession planning experts Tim Findlay (CATO Advisory), Neville Brady (Brows Up Consulting), and Jack Langley (Farrell Goode Solicitors), along with real-world case studies, attendees will walk away with a clearer roadmap for their farm's future.

Benchmarking Your Farm Business Performance

Beyond succession, managing financial performance is key to ensuring that every dollar spent on-farm is working as hard as possible.

On March 18, Donald Recreation Reserve will host a session exploring farm business metrics, using a model farm as a benchmark to help growers assess their own performance. Facilitated by Royce Pitchford from Pinion Advisory, identifying strengths and weaknesses, understanding return on equity, and monitoring trends year on year are just some of the tools that will be covered.

Making Smart Investment Decisions

For those looking to make major investment decisions, the March 26 session at the Sea Lake Community Complex will provide a deep dive into land expansion and machinery investment. With rising capital costs, strategic planning around leasing, share farming, and machinery replacement schedules is crucial. Growers will gain a deeper understanding of how to meet efficiency objectives without overextending financially.

As Meg Conlan, BCG RiskWi$e project manager, puts it, "Farmers are great at growing high-yielding crops, but it's no good if it costs more to grow than what we make back."

By understanding financial risk and reward relationships, growers can move beyond reactive decision-making and develop strategies that strengthen their businesses for the future.

About RiskWi$e

RiskWi$e is a 5-year, $30 million national initiative (2023–2028) aimed at helping Australian grain growers navigate increasing levels of risk from weather variability and price volatility.

By improving understanding of the risk-reward relationships in on-farm management decisions, RiskWi$e supports growers in making informed, confident choices that maximise rewards and minimise potential losses.

RiskWi$e is conducted in partnership with grower groups, 6 action research group leads, research/extension partners, CSIRO and the Grains Research and Development Corporation (GRDC). To find out more visit: https://grdc.com.au/research/partnerships-and-initiatives/strategic-partnerships/riskwise

Register for the events at bcg.org.au/events/

Corack East Wind

ACEN | Australia

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
info@corackeastwind.com.au
1800 498 550
Corack East Wind

Mobile Health Clinic Is Coming to Birchip

Women across regional Victoria can now access free women's health care and advice closer to home, with the Government's mobile women's health clinic making its way to communities right across the state.

Operated in partnership with BreastScreen Victoria, it is an important addition to the growing number of new, public women's health services rolling out statewide, with the travelling clinic addressing barriers in accessing care that many women of all ages face living outside of a metropolitan area.

For women from the LGBTIQA+ community, women from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, and Aboriginal women, these access issues can be further compounded, simply because of who they are.

Known as NINA, the van is staffed by a highly experienced Nurse Practitioner who can provide a variety of services, including sexual and reproductive health advice, STI testing and treatment, long-acting reversible contraception (LARC) where possible, access to medical abortion (MTOP), and referrals to other healthcare specialists.

In addition to treating immediate health needs, the new service will support referrals for specialist care, as well as to services for mental health and wellbeing, alcohol and other drugs, and family violence.

Focus

The clinic is focused on building connections with women, their community and local health services, and Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisations – delivered in an environment that is welcoming, safe and respectful.

"All Victorian women deserve to have access to the advice, treatment and care they need no matter who they are or where they live – good health should not be determined by our postcode, background or bank balance," said Minister for Health, Mary-Anne Thomas.

Free Service

"During a time when the cost of living has become an added barrier for many who need to access care, our free mobile clinic could make a lifesaving or life changing difference to thousands of women across Victoria.

"Our mobile clinic is bridging the service gap we know currently exists in regional and rural areas – making abortion, contraception and other critical care needs more accessible, in an inclusive and culturally safe environment."

Locations

NINA is currently operating in Daylesford, before visiting Bendigo and District Aboriginal Co-Operative (March 3-7), St Arnaud (March 17-28), Birchip (31 March 31 - April 11), Warracknabeal (April 14 - May 2), and Nhill (May 5-15).

The mobile clinic will soon be complemented by the virtual women's health clinic, which will offer free, expert medical advice, treatment and care for a range of women's health needs via telehealth or online.

Both the mobile and virtual clinics are part of the Labor Government's landmark $153 million women's health package that is transforming the way women's healthcare is delivered in Victoria.

This includes the delivery of 20 new women's health clinics, expanding the sexual and reproductive health hub network, doubling the number of laparoscopies for endometriosis and associated conditions, and providing scholarships for more than 100 women's specialists.

To follow the mobile clinic's itinerary, please visit breastscreen.org.au/locations/mobile-screening-services.

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Letters to the Editor

Festival Cancellation

(The Editor, "The Times")

Dear Sir.– The cancellation of the Esoteric Festival in Donald this year has had a significant impact on the local community, businesses, and volunteers.

Having attended as a volunteer at numerous festivals over the years, I have personally witnessed the exceptional organization and positive influence of this event.

The festival has been a major source of excitement for the local community, bringing together people of all ages, including elderly residents who appreciate and are excited by the vibrant energy it brings to the town. The enthusiasm and sense of pride amongst the residents of the Shire of Buloke has been evident as they actively participated in and supported the event.

Beyond the social aspect, the festival has also played a crucial role in stimulating the local economy. Numerous businesses have benefited from supplying goods and services to the event, which is especially important in today's challenging economic climate.

Additionally, local sporting and community clubs have received financial and social benefits by participating in various capacities, such as running stalls and assisting with event activities.

The sudden cancellation of the festival has had far-reaching consequences. Thousands of people, including festival attendees, vendors, and service providers, have been affected.

The loss of this event means not only a financial setback for businesses and community groups, but also a missed opportunity for social interaction and community engagement. The mental well-being of many individuals who looked forward to the festival as a form of connection and celebration has also been impacted.

The Esoteric Festival has been a vital part of the Donald community, fostering economic growth, social cohesion, and civic pride. The decision to cancel it on short notice is deeply disappointing as it's affecting the livelihoods and the morale of many.

Moving forward, it is crucial to support those impacted and explore ways to ensure such a valued event can return in future years and to ensure the people of Donald and the arts community of Victoria have hope for the future.

Peter,
Rowville, Vic.

Many Thanks

(The Editor, "The Times")

Dear Sir.– As Donald Chamber and Commerce president and the owner of a small business which certainly could have gone belly up after the cancellation of this weekend's festival, I thank the entire community from the bottom of my heart; also a handful of our customers at S&R's Sweet Treats, specifically the festival patrons who told me to keep their payment, followed by a heartfelt message of support for our town's people and businesses affected.

It really demonstrates how kind and loving our Esoterians are – we need these people back and we need to support the Goldsmiths as much as we possibly can to ensure Esoteric's Future!

I would also like to thank Donald 2000 and the general community for dropping everything Thursday night after the announcement and heading up the street to try to direct people on where to camp safely for the night, providing food and water to many of those left stranded because of that decision by the appointed Municipal Building Surveyor.

Also many thanks to the Donald Recreational Committee for opening up the toilets and showers along with doing regular checks to enquire they were replenished.

Rachel Grant,
Donald Chamber of Commerce and small business owner (S & R's Sweet Treats).

Let's Find A Better Way To "Pitch" In

(The Editor, "The Times")

Dear Sir.– Hmmm, sounds like all we need is the pitch forks and torches, and we'd have a right proper lynch mob. It is understandable that we are all feeling frustrated and angry about the cancellation of Esoteric. Family members, friends, businesses, volunteers, attendees from near and far have all been impacted to varying degrees by the sudden turn of events.

It is also understandable that we are feeling angered by our apparent helplessness to prevent this situation from unfolding. Forums like this provide an outlet for this anger and frustration, but perhaps there is a more constructive way to respond and channel these feelings.

Already, some positives have been noted in the way the community has come together to support those who are struggling. From free barbecues to offers of accommodation, free entertainment to offers to buy excess stock, our community has banded together to help those in need. It's a beautiful thing to behold and a stark reminder of how there is always some positive to come out of a seemingly negative circumstance.

Our councillors are also a part of that community and they are also struggling right now too, having done what they could to get this event across the line, within the confines of the rules and regulations they have to adhere to.

We live in a time of bureaucratic red tape and fear of persecution (in the form of law suits, cancel culture, and the like). The venting of our feelings towards the council and shire employees on social media or through other avenues is a destructive process that creates further division in our community and does nothing to change the outcome. It doesn't change the predicament of those currently impacted, nor does it do anything to prevent its occurrence again in the future. If anything, it makes a repeat more likely to occur because the lines of communication between the council and the rest of the community have been damaged.

Perhaps it might help to keep in mind that we are the ones who elected these people. If we're not happy with them, remember we chose them. If we're not happy with the system and the red tape, we subscribed to it. We chose to participate and abide by the rules and the regulations – until it didn't suit. If a need for change has been recognised, direct the pent-up energy arising from your anger, helplessness, and frustration towards creating a positive change, so that this situation is less likely to unfold in the future.

In order for that to occur, we need to keep the lines of communication open with those we elected to act as our voice; those members of our community, who we voted to liaise on our behalf with the rule-makers and those with the authority to enact that change.

Through a collaborative approach, let's move forward and direct our attention towards ensuring that measures are taken to have systems in place for next year. Let's have processes that allow for any checks and regulatory requirements to be identified and remedied well in advance. If need be, let's set the wheels in motion to make sure that those processes are modified, simplified, or clarified.

What better way to honour Esoteric and all those involved in bringing this celebration to light every year than to embody the values it exemplifies. After all, isn't coming together the essence of what Esoteric is all about?

Kathy Walker

Your Blood is Worth Bottling

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

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

Australian Red Cross

BLOOD SERVICE

Festival Approvals

(From Buloke Shire Council)

The Buloke Shire Council voted to approve a one year planning permit for the 2025 Esoteric Music Festival to be held in Donald from March 6 to 11, 2025, at a meeting last Monday night.

The permit was granted, against the Council officers' recommendation, and was subject to 47 conditions.

Whilst a planning permit has been granted, the festival's application for a Place of Public Entertainment (POPE-OP) was refused by the Council's Municipal Building Surveyor on Tuesday, who cited 33 grounds of refusal.

The POPE-OP is a requirement under the Building Act of 1993 and is not a decision that can be overturned by Councillors.

The decision to refuse the POPE-OP aligns with the concerns raised by Council officers in their recommendation to refuse the planning permit application. These include ongoing safety and compliance concerns as well as the lack of adherence to last year's POPE-OP.

The Event organisers made an appeal to the State Building Surveyor, Steven Baxas, to intervene. The State Building Surveyor, has expressed his support for Council's decision to refuse to issue a POPE-OP.

With the POPE-OP application refused, the event organisers were advised to cancel the event. Ticket holders were advised to not attend the event as the event did not have the required approvals and to contact the event organisers for more information.

Five Films for Charlton Festival

Charlton Arts is thrilled to be hosting the annual Charlton Film Festival at the Rex Theatre on Friday, 21st, and Saturday, 22nd March.

The festival is being held later this year to avoid clashing with OK Motels, long weekends and other events. Following a similar format to previous years, the festival will feature five films, including two suppers and a sumptuous lunch. The candy bar will also be open to purchase popcorn and an ice cream – film watching essentials.

This year's program includes five thought-provoking films.

Friday Night

On Friday night, "Lee" will kick off the festival. Kate Winslet leads this biopic as photographer Elizabeth "Lee" Miller, a fashion model who became an acclaimed war correspondent for Vogue magazine during World War Two.

Saturday

The Saturday program begins with "There's Still Tomorrow". This Italian film is set in post-war Italy. The family of typical housewife Delia is in turmoil over the impending engagement of beloved firstborn Marcella. The arrival of a mysterious letter, however, will ignite Delia's courage to face her abusive husband and imagine a better future.

"Sing Sing" is a drama based on a true story following a prison theatre group that escapes the reality of incarceration through the creativity of staging a play. Oscar-nominee, Colman Domingo (Rustin) leads the drama and the cast includes actors who have been incarcerated. (Contains strong language.)

"The Pool" is a documentary following a year in the life of the Bondi Icebergs, the most photographed pool in the world. This is where generations of children have learnt to swim, where the diehard have braved the frigid waters of one hundred winters, and where the young and beautiful have come to bond and bake in the hot sun.

"Saturday Night"

The festival finishes with "Saturday Night". Jason Reitman helms this depiction of the down-to-the-wire lead-up to the recording of the very first episode of Saturday Night Live. Set at 11:30 p.m. on October 11th, 1975, the film follows a ferocious troupe of young comedians and writers in the 90 minutes leading up to a broadcast that would change television forever.

Festival co-ordinator, Carolyn Olive, is confident the program will have something to suit everyone. However, selecting films has become more difficult.

"With many films appearing on streaming services very quickly after their release or not having theatrical releases at all, it's harder to find films that people haven't seen already or can easily watch at home," said Carolyn.

"I think there is also a bit of catching up happening from Covid and the writers' strike. We also try to avoid films that have already screened at the Rex.

"Many visitors see all five films, it can be tricky getting the balance right. Most people really come along not just for the films but for the atmosphere of the Rex Theatre, and the great food."

Ticket prices range from $12 for a single film to $100 for the entire program, and are available from the Charlton Neighbourhood House or online at https://events.humaitix.com/charlton-film-festiva-2025.

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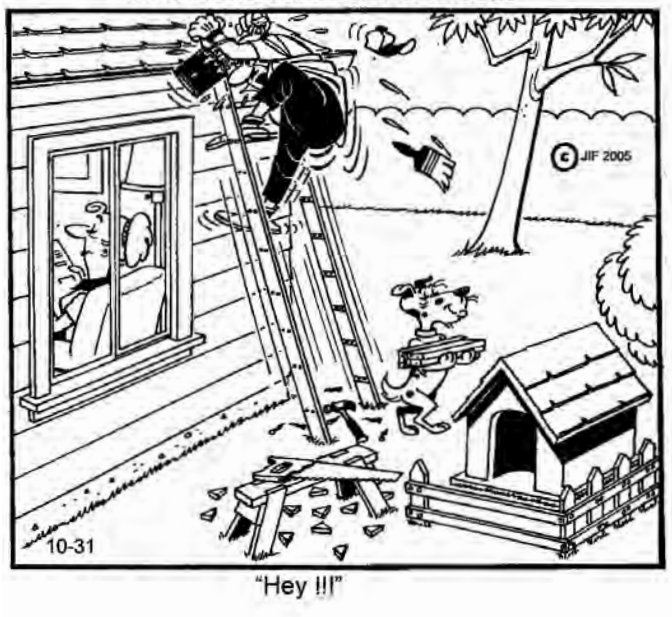

"Hey !!!"

“Times” Classifieds

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***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.

DEATH

OAKLEY.–
Catherine Anne
Passed away peacefully
in Donald
on March 8, 2025,
aged 83 years.

Loved daughter of Frank & Mary (both dec.).

Re-united with her parents

DEATH

OAKLEY.– Cath
Passed away
March 9, 2025

We are saddened by the passing of our treasured longtime member.
Cath was an avid reader and lover of knowledge. Always generous, considerate and caring.

Rest peacefully Cath.

–Donald 5 past and present Bookclub members.

FUNERAL

COLLINS.–
A graveside service for Jack will be held at the Donald Lawn Cemetery on Friday, March 14 at 10.30 a.m..

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FUNERAL

OAKLEY.–
A graveside service for Catherine will be held at the Donald Monumental Cemetery on Thursday, March 13, 2025 at 10.30 a.m..

KELL FUNERALS
ST. ARNAUD 5495 1043
NFDA EST. 1860

IN MEMORIAM

FITZPATRICK.– Maddie
11/03/2024

Of time gone by
we hold so dear,
What beautiful
memories we have,
keeps you near.

–Love always, Pop.

A year has passed
Your presence we miss
Your memory we
treasure.
Gone but never forgotten.

–Carmel & Chris.

THANK-YOU

To all my wonderful friends who helped me enjoy my birthday anniversary.
It was great catching up with friends and receiving best wishes, lovely cards and presents.

– Shirley Letts

---

klp karen lee probst

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DONALD LEARNING GROUP INC.

Annual General Meeting

TUES., MARCH 18
COMMUNITY CENTRE GROUP, 31 WOODS ST.
from 6.30 p.m.
ALL WELCOME

IF TAKEN OR FOUND
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Irish Singalong

around the piano
Counter Tea
BULLOCKS HEAD TAVERN
(Shamrock Hotel)

Wed., March 19
5.30 p.m.
Anne Walsh &
Michael Flagg.

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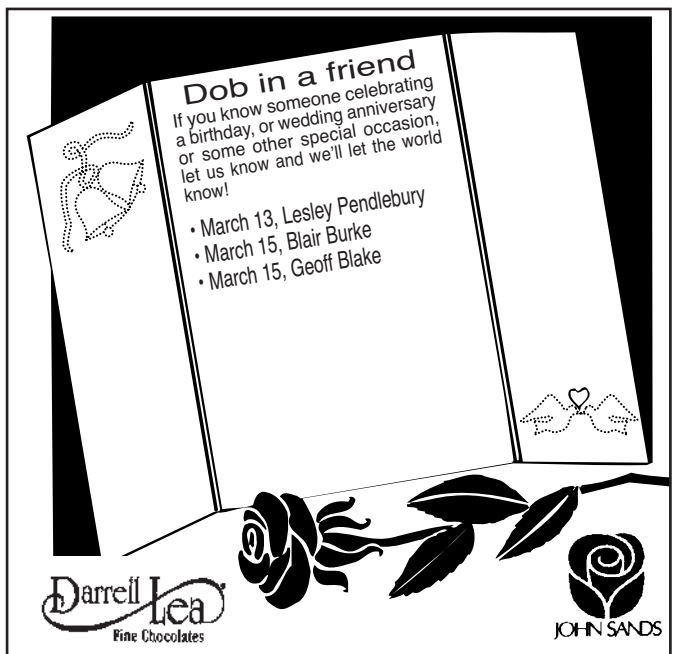

If you know someone celebrating a special anniversary, let us know at

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"Times" Classifieds

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CHARLTON FILM FESTIVAL
21 & 22 March

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One Death is Too Many

WorkSafe is reminding Victorians that a single workplace death is one too many, after 50 lives were sadly lost last year.

While transport, construction and agriculture were the deadliest sectors in 2024, workplace fatalities were spread across more than half of all industries and involved dozens of occupations.

Those to lose their lives included labourers, truck drivers, farmers and farm hands, electricians, carpenters, firefighters, traffic controllers, teachers and delivery drivers.

WorkSafe Executive Director Health and Safety Sam Jenkin said the toll highlighted the fact any workplace was susceptible to a tragedy, so it was essential for employers and workers to stay vigilant.

"Victoria is among the safest places to work in the world but it is simply unacceptable lives are still being lost in what are entirely preventable workplace incidents," Mr Jenkin said.

"No family should suffer the devastation of losing a loved one at work and we remain unyielding in our commitment to working towards a future of zero workplace deaths."

The tragic 2024 fatality toll includes 18 workers who died following a traumatic workplace incident and 12 workers who were killed in a traffic collision.

A further 17 people succumbed last year to a disease contracted over the course of their employment, two workers were lost to work-related medical complications, and one worker died as a result of a criminal offence.

Mr Jenkin said more than 25,500 workers were also injured seriously enough to have a claim for compensation accepted in 2024.

"For too many years we have continued to see workplace harm due to the same hazards in the same industries, which is why WorkSafe has set ambitious targets to challenge the status quo," he said.

"We are asking for the support and buy-in of the entire Victorian community – only together can we create safer workplaces that last for generations to come."

Last year's deaths were down from the 2023 workplace fatality toll, which now stands at 73. Workplace tragedy does not discriminate.

Prosecutions

WorkSafe investigations into workplace fatalities led to 12 successful prosecutions in 2024, including the first conviction under Victoria's workplace manslaughter laws, resulting in $4.76 million in fines and costs being imposed by the courts.

Of the Victorian workplace fatalities in 2024:

• There were 33 deaths recorded in metropolitan Melbourne, including nine in the southern-metro area, while 17 fatalities occurred in regional Victoria.

• Greater Dandenong was the Local Government Area with the most work-related deaths with five lives lost.

• Transport, postal and warehousing was the deadliest industry with 12 fatalities; followed by construction with eight deaths; while there were seven fatalities in agriculture, forestry and fishing.

• Vehicle incidents, both on and off-road, were again the top cause and accounted for 16 deaths; contact with or exposure to chemicals and substances claimed 15 lives; and eight workers died after being trapped or struck by machinery and equipment.

• Labourer was the most dangerous occupation with 14 work-related deaths; followed by truck driver with four fatalities; and electrician with three lives lost.

• Vehicles and machinery were involved in 23 workplace fatalities.

• Males accounted for all but three of those who lost their lives, while almost two-thirds were aged 55 or older at the time of their death.

• More than half of those who died were working for small businesses.

"Mad About the Boy"

This weekend at The Rex sees the delightful Bridget Jones back on screen in this, the fourth movie outing of the much-loved character.

Bridget Jones (Renee Zellweger), now a widowed single mother, navigates the challenges of parenthood, work, and modern dating with the support of her friends, family, and former partner, Daniel Cleaver. As she re-enters the dating world, she finds herself pursued by a younger man while also forming an unexpected connection with her son's science teacher.

After Mark (Colin Firth) was killed on a humanitarian mission in the Sudan, Bridget is now a single mother to Billy and Mabel, and is stuck in a state of emotional limbo. Heading back to work and even trying out the dating apps, Bridget is soon pursued by a dreamy and enthusiastic younger man Roxster (Leo Woodall).

Bridget grapples with the judgment of the perfect mums at school, worries about Billy as he struggles with the absence of his father, and engages in a series of awkward interactions with her son's rational-to-a-fault science teacher (Chiwetel Ejiofor).

"Like a big comforting hug" is how one reviewer praised the movie, as old friends return and try to get Bridget back on track.

The movie also packs an emotional punch, giving Bridget a deeper emotional appeal so be prepared for tears as well as laughs.

With the main cast returning, including Jim Broadbent, Emma Thompson and Isla Fisher, this A-lister ensemble to guide the story to its final conclusion.

"Mad About the Boy" is a great rom-com pic, so grab a group of friends and settle in for some genuine movie entertainment.

"Bridget Jones: Mad About the Boy" (M 125 minutes) screens at The Rex – Saturday 15 March 8 p.m. | Sunday 16 March 2 p.m. | Tuesday 18 March 8 p.m..

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

HOME FIRE SAFETY CHECKLIST

- ☐ NEVER LEAVE COOKING UNATTENDED
- ☐ TURN OFF THE HEATER BEFORE BED
- ☐ NEVER OVERLOAD POWERBOARDS
- ☐ CHECK SMOKE ALARMS MONTHLY
- ☐ CLEAN CHIMNEYS AND FLUES YEARLY
- ☐ TURN OFF ELECTRIC BLANKET BEFORE BED
- ☐ CLEAN THE LINT FILTER OF YOUR CLOTHES DRYER AFTER EACH LOAD

AND MORE!

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

CFA

Did You Vote?

The Victorian Electoral Commission (VEC) is urging Victorians not to ignore a request for an explanation as to why they appear not to have voted in the last local council elections in October, 2024.

The VEC has issued close to 530,000 "Apparent failure to vote notices" and recipients must respond by the 28-day deadline with a detailed explanation.

The notice is an opportunity to avoid a fine if non-voters provide a detailed response with supporting documentation. The VEC is required to automatically fine non-respondents or those who do not provide a valid reason for failing to vote. The penalty is $99.

Electoral Commissioner Sven Bluemmel said that recipients should contact the VEC for assistance if unsure what to do, rather than ignore the notice.

"If you need help understanding what the notice means and what you need to do, you can call us on 1300 551 575 or visit our website at vec.vic.gov.au.

"Information on what to do if you receive an apparent failure to vote notice is available to view in 10 in-language videos," Mr Bluemmel added.

"I also encourage you to sign up to our VoterAlert service, to make sure you're notified whenever there's a state or local council election you need to vote in."

The VEC issued VoterAlert reminders by SMS and email at key points in the election to 2.5 million enrolled voters who had provided their details. They included reminders on the close of roll date and a reminder to vote. People can sign up at any time to be reminded to vote in all future state and local council elections at: vec.vic.gov.au/VoterAlert.

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

Inspirational Stories from Regional Women

Inspirational stories from regional women will be among the highlights of International Women's Day celebrations in Northern Grampians Shire.

Mayor Karen Hyslop encouraged people to celebrate the power, resilience and achievements of women at events in St Arnaud last week and Stawell on Wednesday, March 12.

St Arnaud businesswoman Johanna Medlyn hosted a panel discussion at St Arnaud Sporting Centre. The event, a screening of the "Equal the Contest" documentary.

Cr Hyslop said organisers of the St Arnaud celebration were inspired by the journey of women in Australian Rules football.

"We are so lucky to have such an amazing line-up of speakers," she said.

"Abby Weir and her mother Melissa, a local teacher and youth advocate, gave insight to the modern journey of women and girls in football, and their experiences from a player and parent's perspective.

"Abby's insights were via a recording due to placement commitments."

Trina Summers and Megan Hortle shared some of the challenges they faced during childhood.

"Born in St Arnaud and now in their 50s, they both faced the challenge of having a passion for a game, but no opportunity to play it," Cr. Hyslop said.

"Their parents' strength to push through all barriers to allow them the opportunity to play a sport they love is inspiring."

International Women's Day has been marked internationally on March 8 since 1911 and involves celebrating women's achievements, raising awareness about discrimination and taking action to forge gender parity.

March Forward

The event at Stawell Library on March 12 will also include a panel of speakers, along with the launch of the March Forward Art Exhibition.

"Organisers have also established a host of interesting speakers for the Stawell event, from a wide range of backgrounds," Cr Hyslop said.

Victoria Police First Constable Amy Stubberfield, council multicultural action project officer Patricia Alves and community member Karen Peacock will be among the speakers sharing insights on the "March Forward" theme, along with three students from Stawell Secondary College.

"The multi-generational panel of women will discuss what March Forward looks like and discuss topics such as the challenges they have faced in the past, and continue to face today," Cr Hyslop said.

"They will also discuss the future for our younger generation – what is it really like being a young woman today? What to we need to change to promote a truly equal society?

"Come along to the library between 2 p.m. and 4 p.m. and find out."

Cr Hyslop said she also looked forward to the launch of the March Forward exhibition.

Community members have been contributing pieces of art throughout the past few weeks, based on the topic "a woman or girl you admire".

Wimmera artist Maylah Howells has donated two wearable artworks for the exhibition, titled "Mother Earth" and "Hine Moana". The latter represents the Pacific Ocean in Māori mythology.

• *Above and left: "Mother Earth", created by Wimmera artist Maylah Howells, will be on display at Stawell Library from March 12 to 24 as part of the March Forward Art Exhibition.*

"The outfit 'Mother Earth' took 600 hours to make and is composed of recycled materials or things that were being thrown out," Cr Hyslop said.

"The corset for the outfit contains more than 1000 tabs from soft drink cans, and there's a train made from woven raffia, with hessian and embroidery in the dress. It's amazing, so come along and check it out."

The exhibition will run at Stawell Library until March 24.

People can call the library on (03) 5358 1274 or council customer service on (03) 5358 8700 to RSVP for the Stawell event.

To Address Cost-of-living Crisis...

A Call For Bold Action

Australians are facing an unprecedented cost-of-living crisis, with soaring rents, rising utility bills and financial pressures leaving many households unable to meet basic needs. UnitingCare Australia is calling on political leaders from all parties to take urgent action to address immediate pressures while also tackling systemic drivers of inflation.

"Too many Australians are being left behind. This is not just a question of economics; it's about fairness, dignity and the kind of society we want to be," said Claerwen Little, National Director of UnitingCare Australia.

"The current crisis calls for bold leadership and compassionate policies that ensure everyone receives support they need, when and where they need it."

Key Measures

UnitingCare Australia is urging leaders to prioritise two key measures:

1. Ensure a strong and adequate safety net:

Align income support payments with the actual cost of living, ensuring all Australians can meet essential needs.

Index payments to inflation to preserve their real value over time.

Ensure that all older Australians, including full pensioners, have access to quality aged care services.

2. Strengthen community support services:

Provide sustained, indexed funding for critical services such as emergency relief, homelessness, aged care, disability, children and family, and crisis support.

Expand service capacity to ensure no one is turned away in times of need.

Sustainable Vision

To make this vision sustainable, we must also tackle systemic drivers of inflation and ensure the equitable distribution of wealth and economic benefits across the population. Addressing structural issues alongside strengthening support systems will ensure fairness, foster economic stability and empower individuals to participate fully in society.

"In a country that values fairness, we must do better to ensure that every Australian shares in the wealth of our nation and economy," Ms Little added. "We must align our economic policies with the values of equity and care."

UnitingCare Australia's call to action comes as the cost-of-living crisis continues to deepen, disproportionately affecting vulnerable groups such as those relying on income support, families experiencing financial hardship, and older Australians dependent on care infrastructure.

"Investing in a strong safety net and resilient community services is not just about addressing today's crisis – it's about building a fairer, stronger Australia for tomorrow," said Ms Little.

"This is the chance for political leaders to demonstrate the values that unite us as a nation."

One Hundred Years Ago

From the "Birchip Advertiser", March 13, 1925.

Motor Accident: A disastrous motor car smash occurred at the intersection of the Aea Lake and Clifton Roads, about 8 miles north of Birchip, on Wednesday afternoon. Messrs. A. and C. Hinneburg were travelling to Marlbed and were almost clear of the Clifton Road when a car, driven by Mr. Bob Herring, dashed into the rear of their car. Both cars capsized and the occupants were pinned to the ground. Mr. C. Hinneburg managed to free himself and then free the others. Mr. Herring and his passenger, Mr. Richard Henman, were admitted to St Burford's hospital. The former was suffering injuries to the back and shock, and the latter from a broken collar-bone. Mr. Herring is a representative of the Vacuum Oil Company and a prominent Melbourne Cricketer. Mr. Henman represents Nestles Milk Pty Ltd. The Motor Cars were badly damaged. Hinneburg Bros. escaped injury.

**

False Alarm: At 2 o'clock on last Monday morning the fire bell was rung and among the first to arrive was Senior Constable Tully. He was informed that the bell was rung to bring all the firemen together prior to taking their departure by the 3 o'clock train to Melbourne, thence the annual demonstration at Warrnambool. Mr. Tully was given to understand that the firemen had authority to ring the bell. There was apparently no need for this unusual procedure and residents should not be disturbed and inconvenienced at such an hour. At Monday's council meeting exception was taken to the ringing of the bell and an explanation from the brigade is being asked for.

**

St Patrick Day's Carnival Successful Gathering

The Annual St Patrick's Day Carnival was held at Birchip on Wednesday in fine but rather hot weather.

Prior to the commencement of the programme the St Joseph's Boys Band, from Ballarat, headed the procession along Cumming Avenue and then to the Show Grounds where a long list of athletic and gymkhana events were contested. Although the attendance was slightly less than last year the carnival was a successful one.

The concert at night attracted a full house and the programme was well received and enjoyed by a most appreciative audience. Miss Gertrude Healey (violinist) and Mr. Percy Blundell (soloist) with their artistically rendered items more than justified the good reports of their capabilities. They were ably supported by several district artists and St Joseph's Boys' Band.

The concert was followed by a successful dance.

**

Sporting News

Bowls: The Birchip bowlers journeyed to Donald on Wednesday last and participated in the last competition match for the season. Although Birchip lost the match, they are the winners of the trophy for the N.W.D.B.A. Birchip were minus the services of several of their usual prominent players, but not withstanding this the match was very evenly contested, the home team winning by a narrow margin of three points.

TIDY TOWNS Keep Australia Beautiful.

E-Mailers!

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

Charlton 100 Years Ago

(Information from "East Charlton Tribune")

March 7 to 11, 1925.

Mean Theft: Mr Ernest Smith, of Armstrong St, was the victim of a mean theft when he discovered that the sum of £12, which was located in a teapot on the mantleshelf of his bedroom, had gone missing. The room had been entered and ransacked, drawers being left open, and books and other articles strewn all over the place. On the following morning a piece of deal board that had been pointed (possibly with idea of forcing the window) was found. The matter was reported to the police.

Busy "Bee": February 27 was the date of the annual Picnic Day allotted to the employees of Messrs Noske Bros Pty Ltd and the mill closed at noon on Friday, giving the staff a week-end. Excellent use of their holiday was made by some members of the staff, who proceeded to the site of the new swimming pool below the weir, and removed all obstacles in the middle of the river at that spot. This made that part of the river accessible for swimming and paddling, and greatly improved the general appearance of the vicinity. In the meantime a dressing shed had been erected by members of the Progress Association. The First Charlton Troop of Boy Scouts visited the pool and spent a profitable time in the progress of the natatorial art.

Woosang: Prior to her wedding, Miss Lexie Dawson White was entertained by the residents of Woosang and district, and friends of Yeungroon at the Woosang Hall. Tributes to the excellent qualities of the guest were paid and Cr Donaldson made the presentation to Miss White of a beautiful and suitably inscribed silver-mounted oak salad bowl and service. A pleasing concert programme followed. The supper was a credit to the ladies of the district. For the dance which followed, music was provided by local ladies and gentlemen.

New Café: Mrs J. E. Pollard is to establish a new, up-to-date and well appointed luncheon and tea rooms in High St.. For two or three years past, Mrs Pollard, whose husband's farm is situated between Glenloth and Wycheproof, has felt that there was a good opening for a venture on the lines indicated, and the Piccadilly Café (adjacent to the Globe Hotel), will be opened on Saturday afternoon next. All butter, eggs, milk, cream, etc, will come from the farm referred to, and home-made cakes, scones, sandwiches, ice cream, sundaes, cool drinks, etc, will be found very appetising. Grills and frys will be served at 1/6; fish at 1/9; and cold luncheon at 1/6. "Civility, cleanliness and smart service" will be the motto.

Pioneer Passes: The death occurred on Friday at her residence in High St, of an old and highly respected citizen of the town, in the person of Mrs Jeanie Jenkins, relict of the late Mr George Jenkins. Born in the Burns' country, at Kilmarnock, Ayrshire, in December 1845, deceased, in company with her father and sisters emigrated to Victoria, to join her brother on land at Geelong. They journeyed on the sailing ship "Eagle," a voyage of 101 days. They resided in Drysdale for many years and then went to Miners' Rest. When land was thrown open for selection around Dooboobetic over 50 years ago, they selected land and resided there for about 10 years. Following that a move was made to Charlton, where deceased had resided for more than 40 years. She had reached the advanced age of 80. She was the loving mother of Agnes, Elizabeth, Mary, Annie, George, Albert, Robert and William.

Friends Farewelled: Regret at impending loss, and pleasure at having the opportunity to honour esteemed and respected citizens, mingled in the breasts of the residents of Yeungroon and the surrounding district when Mr and Mrs D. J. McGillivray and family; and Mr and Mrs Frank Sturrock and family, were entertained to a farewell evening in the Yeungroon Hall. Warm tributes to the guests were paid and presentations as follows: To Mr D. J. McGillivray, gold-mounted pipe. To Mrs McGillivray, solid leather suit case. To children, Master Neil, gold mounted fountain pen; Effie, box of blocks; baby Eva a doll. To Mr Frank Sturrock, gold mounted pipe. To Mrs Sturrock, travelling rug. To children, Master Wallace, football; baby Merlyn, silver rattle. A musical programme, splendid repast and an enjoyable dance concluded a memorable evening.

• *Noske Flour Mill.*

• *Piccadilly Cafe.*

Landcare Grants Open to Young Victorians

The Nationals' Member for Mildura, Jade Benham, is encouraging young residents to apply for Junior Landcare and Biodiversity Grants.

Grants of up to $5,000 are available and aim to get young people out in nature to care for and learn about Victoria's environment.

Local primary and secondary schools, Scouts and Girl Guides, childcare centres, youth groups and Junior Landcare groups can apply for grants of up to $5,000. Cross-border schools with Victorian students are also eligible to apply.

Projects can focus on one of two focus areas or a mixture of both:

• Focus Area 1: Biodiversity focused education activities: educating, involving, and engaging young people in valuing and actively caring for Victoria's biodiversity and natural environment.

• Focus Area 2: Biodiversity focused on-ground projects: engaging young people to improve biodiversity through creating, enhancing, or restoring habitat for Victoria's native plants and animals.

Previous grant recipients have undertaken projects including planting native gardens, building habitat to attract native insects and birds and excursions to wildlife sanctuaries.

Grant recipients in 2024 from within the Mildura electorate include Wycheproof Junior Landcare, Pasadena Preschool, Sunraysia District Scouts and Trinity Lutheran College.

"These grants help provide a pathway for our next generation of environmental stewards. It is crucial that we provide young people with the tools and resources they need to engage with their local environment. This funding will help ensure that young people can participate in meaningful projects that have a lasting impact on our natural surroundings," Ms Benham said.

• *Jade Benham.*

Applications close on March 28, 2025. For more information on Victorian Junior Landcare and Biodiversity Grants, visit environment.vic.gov.au/grants.

• *The camera was positioned at the A. A. Dunstan Stadium, overlooking Donald's two main sports grounds, between which dozens of vehicles, tents and their occupants spent at least one night before heading for home.*

Cancellation by Order, as Crowds Arrive

Esoteric Festival was cancelled at the last minute, late on Thursday, March 6, with the refusal of granting a Place of Public Entertainment – Operations permit, by Buloke Shire's building surveyor.

Festival organisers were devastated at the announcement, having fought for the go-ahead once already at last Monday's council meeting where a conditional planning permit was granted. The last clearance to be obtained was the POPE-OP, which is commonly issued the day before an event opens; however, this year's festival was deemed unable to meet the permit's criteria.

After doing everything within his power to meet the standard by the deadline, the stress was evident when Sam Goldsmith made the announcement to festival goers lining up at the gate. Some had been waiting in line for hours to gain entry and the news served a hard blow to many who had no other accommodation options for the weekend.

None were served a harder blow than the members of the Goldsmith family, who have poured their heart and soul into hosting this event each year, paying the success of the festival forward in supporting the wider community.

It was with clear heaviness in his voice that Sam turned his patrons away from the festival site on Thursday evening, and campers fanned out around the region to find alternative arrangements. Some, weary from travelling long distances, were directed to the show grounds and Goff Letts Oval, where a temporary camping village assembled to allow the town's visitors a chance to rest, eat and use basic amenities before making the return journey home.

Other visitors to the region were not deterred as easily, choosing instead to decend upon local lakes such as Walkers, Watchem and Wooroonook creating even busier campsites over the long weekend.

Businesses which had been booked to cater to the festival site were suddenly facing a weekend with no revenue as well as local shops and businesses which had stocked up on products to cater to the many.

Social media lit up with the requests of so many affected by the cancellation of the festival and the community rallied in support.

Food vendors were directed to alternate events being held in the district to assist with catering to crowds in other areas; some remained at the festival site to provide crew and organisers with sustenance as they pack down the site. Local shops and businesses were widely supported by the community, and a number of freezers were stocked up with bulk specials on meat purchases from the Donald Family Butcher. S & R Sweet Treats had no need to worry about left over perishables, with deliveries to the local lakes and campsites keeping the proprietors busy all weekend.

Despite Esoteric's cancellation, the festival family itself goes from strength to strength as was evident in the hasty recovery process this weekend. A seemingly endless well of support was on offer to any and all affected by the last-minute cancellation.

Retailers were advertised widely, while alternate venues were arranged for the lineup of artists, including an Esoteric party at Melbourne Pavilion on Sunday night, exclusively for Esoteric ticket holders.

Organisers of the event have offered refunds on this year's tickets, however implored their fellow "doofers" to consider holding on to them to use at the 2026 event to ensure the future of the festival.

The festival, its family and the wider community were certainly delivered a hard blow this year, however, with such apparent loyalty and support for patrons, organisers and the town itself, one can easily imagine Esoteric will be back and better than ever in 2026.

• *The picture says it all. This photograph found its way from Walkers Lake to the "Buloke Times" at the weekend. The campers are not named, but the sign identifies them as "Esoteric Refugees".*

Support services

Adult

Lifeline: 13 11 14 | Text 0477 13 11 14
lifeline.org.au

Suicide Call Back Service: 1300 659 467
suicidecallbackservice.org.au

Beyond Blue: 1300 224 636
beyondblue.org.au/forums

MensLine Australia: 1300 789 978
mensline.org.au

StandBy Support After Suicide
1300 727 247

Youth

Kids Helpline: 1800 551 800
kidshelpline.com.au

headspace: 1800 650 890
headspace.org.au

ReachOut: ReachOut.com

Other resources

Head to Health: mental health portal
headtohealth.gov.au

Life in Mind: suicide prevention portal
lifeinmindaustralia.com.au

SANE: 1800 187 263 (10am-10pm)
online forums: saneforums.org

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander: 13YARN.org.au or 13 92 76

Lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, and/or intersex: 1800 184 527 qlife.org.au

Culturally and linguistically diverse: embracementalhealth.org.au

• *Frank's siblings from left to right, Barb Ormesher, Sharyn Huggest, and Michael Hunt.*

• *The Naughton family with the artist. Left to right: Peter Naughton, Margaret Naughton, Trevor (Strawbs) Naughton, Jennifer Binion, and artist Matt Hannah.*

• *Ray's wife, Margaret Naughton, and Frank's Sister, Barb Ormesher, cut the ribbon to unveil the mural.*

Birchip's Big Weekend a Major Success

Birchip came alive over the March long weekend, with locals and visitors flocking to town to experience some of its most anticipated events.

With a buzzing atmosphere, vibrant street art, and exciting live music, Birchip was the place to be.

Mali Heart Street Art Festival

The festival kicked off on Saturday at 10 a.m., and with over thirty stallholders, there truly was something for everyone.

Mali Heart committee member, Emily Noonan, said that the turnout at this year's festival was positive.

"It was a great day full of family fun, art, and community connection," Emily said. "This year's festival was a fantastic success."

Attendees enjoyed a diverse range of hospitality offerings, from baked potatoes and waffles to scones. Local favourites, including Sharp's Bakery, Olive Joy Café, and the Birchip Café, also kept crowds well-fed.

Adding to the festival's lively atmosphere, busker Grim Fawkner provided an upbeat soundtrack throughout the morning and afternoon, while Bambi Navarro and Annabelle Bennett entertained the crowd at the mural unveiling.

Birchip Hotel

As the day turned to night, the celebrations continued at the Birchip Hotel, where the town's vibrant local music scene took centre stage.

A large crowd gathered to enjoy the live music performances, as well as the charcoal spit Greek souvlakis, keeping the party going well into the early hours of the morning.

Birchip Trots

On Sunday, the excitement moved to the Birchip Harness Racing Track, where the crowd continued the festivities well into the night. Despite the stormy weather that led to the postponement of the final three races, the energy remained high, with attendees enjoying the atmosphere and each other's company.

Children were kept entertained with a rock-climbing wall, face painting, and a jumping castle, while others soaked up the racing action, fashion, and food.

What began as a day under clear blue skies soon gave way to dark clouds, cutting the races short due to lightning. However, the strong sense of community and the enthusiasm of attendees ensured the event remained a highlight of the weekend.

Following discussions with Harness Racing Victoria and the Charlton Harness Racing Club, the remaining races will now take place at the Charlton Harness Races this Sunday.

A full report of the Mali Heart Festival and Birchip Trots will appear in Friday's edition of the "Buloke Times".

We're all country at the 2025

Community Bank Charlton & District

CHARLTON CUP DAY

SUNDAY MARCH 16TH

FASHIONS 1st prize $250 • PUNTING COMPETITIONS
KIDS SHOWBAGS • LIVE MUSIC
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DRESS CODE - AKUBRAS AND RM'S!

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Natural Tips for Healthy Hair

Beautifully clean, bouncy, shiny hair is without doubt an enviable asset. To maintain your hair's good looks, you must also maintain all-round good health, for the condition of your hair is usually a good indication of the state of your general health. If you feel slightly out-of-sorts, it is surprising how quickly your hair will lose its sheen and body.

Maintaining a healthy, balanced diet is essential, as your hair needs vitamin B complex, vitamin A, calcium, silica, iron, zinc, protein and unsaturated oils or fatty acids. Eat plenty of fresh fruit, vegetables and salads, drink lots of water and make sure that you get enough sleep – eight hours rest each night will do wonders for your hair.

Although diet is the foundation of healthy hair, herbs will also help to bring out its natural beauty. Their gentle cleansing and conditioning action will leave hair shiny and manageable, ensuring that healthy lustre and bounce that everyone notices.

Those old-fashioned tips from grandma's day, like shampooing with an egg to bring life to dry hair, and using a lemon juice or vinegar rinse for oily hair, still work. Similarly, traditional herbal rinses made from rosemary, nettle or yarrow massaged into the scalp after shampooing will stimulate hair growth and help control dandruff and over-active sebaceous glands.

To nourish your hair and keep it looking shiny and healthy, use this quick and easy weekly treatment: put 20 millilitres of almond oil, 20 millilitres of wheatgerm oil, 20 millilitres of glycerine, 10 millilitres of cider vinegar, three drops each of rosemary and carrot oil, and two eggs into a ceramic bowl. Beat vigorously until thoroughly mixed. After shampooing, apply the mixture, working it well into the hair, then cover with a shower cap. Leave for 20 minutes, then shampoo out using lukewarm water so as not to scramble the egg. To finish, use the following rosemary hair rinse; it will help revitalise the scalp and hair and will also help prevent dandruff.

Put six fresh, leafy rosemary stalks (or two tablespoons of dried rosemary) in an enamel or stainless steel saucepan, add five cups of distilled water and bring to the boil. Reduce heat and simmer for 30 minutes, keeping the lid on so that the vapour does not escape. Remove from the heat, steep until cold and strain through clean muslin cloth.

Thoroughly rinse out all traces of shampoo with clean water, then massage the rosemary lotion well into your scalp with your fingertips.

Conditioning Your Hair

Continual shampooing eventually strips the natural oils from your scalp and hair. Your scalp can become dry and flaky and your hair will begin to look dull and lifeless. Essential oils help to remedy these problems.

After shampooing, take one or two drops of either rosemary or lavender oil, or a combination of both, rub between the palms of the hands and lightly apply over your wet hair. A few drops of rosemary oil rubbed into the scalp after washing also stimulates the blood and makes an excellent skin conditioner. Or you can add 15 drops of the oil to every one cup of your shampoo or conditioner.

For brittle hair, mix two-thirds of rosemary oil with one-third of olive oil, rub between the palms and apply to wet hair. Alternatively, pre-condition your hair with olive oil or castor oil: rub a small quantity into the scalp and hair and wrap your head in a warm wet towel for 30 minutes, putting a shower cap over the towel to keep the warmth in. Shampoo and give a final rinse with vinegar or lemon juice in water.

These simple tips will give your hair that natural, shiny look.

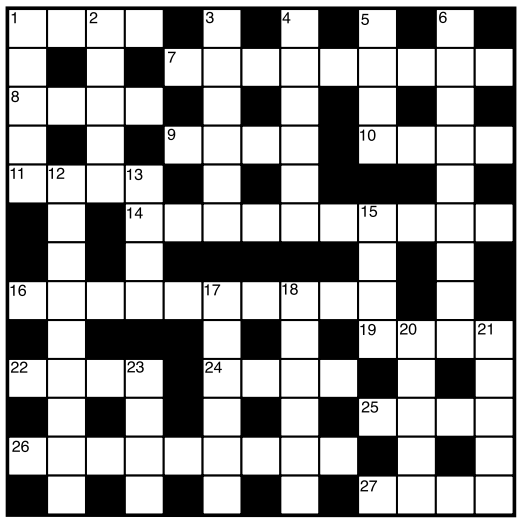
Visit Alan on the Net - www.itssonatural.com

• Alan Hayes

It's so NATURAL

"Times" Crossword

QUICK PUZZLE NO. 8168



ACROSS

1. Obstruct (4)
7. Contrivance (9)
8. Enthusiastic (4)
9. Stain (4)
10. Dash (4)
11. Note (4)
14. Alternative (10)
16. Dog (10)
19. Sign (4)
22. Cease (4)
24. Roue (4)
25. Metal (4)
26. Delighted (9)
27. Yield (4)

DOWN

1. Demand (5)
2. Drug (5)
3. Poise (6)
4. Dance (6)
5. Difficult (4)
6. Profitable (9)
12. Oath (9)
13. Capital city (4)
15. Fuss (2-2)
17. Farm implement (6)
18. Maintenance (6)
20. Animal (5)
21. Poke (5)
23. Separate (4)

• Solution next issue.

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YOUR TWO-DAY TV GUIDE

Wednesday

ABC TV (2) **6.00** Morning Programs. **12.30** Press Club. **1.35** Media Watch. **1.55** Fake Or Fortune? **2.55** Simply Nigella. **3.25** Grand Designs. **4.15** Long Lost Family. **5.00** A Bite To Eat. **5.30** Antiques Roadshow. **6.30** Hard Quiz. **7.00** News. **7.30** 7.30. **8.00** Hard Quiz. **8.30** Optics. Final. **9.00** Guy Montgomery's Guy Mont Spelling Bee (NZ) **9.45** Planet America. **10.20** Spicks And Specks. **10.50** News. **11.05** The Business. **11.20** Gold Diggers. **11.45** Late Programs.

ABC FAMILY (22) **6.00** Kids' Programs. **12.35** Teletubbies. **1.15** Octonauts. **1.40** Ben And Holly. **2.05** Paddington. **2.45** Beep And Mort. **3.00** Play School. **3.40** Mecha Builders. **3.55** Andy's Dinosaur Adventures. **4.25** Builder Brothers Dream Factory. **5.20** Kangaroo Beach. **6.05** PJ Masks Power Heroes. **6.45** Ben And Holly. **7.00** The Deep. **7.35** Star Wars: Young Jedi Adventures. **7.50** Little Lunch. **8.05** Operation Ouch! **8.40** Abbott Elementary. New. **9.25** Doctor Who. **10.55** Late Programs.

NITV (34) **6.00** Morning Programs. **1.25** Boomerang Today. **2.00** The Casketeers. **2.30** The Cook Up. **3.00** Eddie's Lil' Homies. **3.35** Spartakus. **4.05** Cities Of Gold. **4.35** Motown Magic. **5.00** Our Stories. **5.30** Te Ao With Moana. Return. **6.00** Bamay. **6.40** Undiscovered Vistas. **7.30** Great Australian Walks. **8.30 MOVIE:** Moonlight. (2016) **10.25** Talking Language. **10.55** Kaugere: A Place Where Nobody Enters. **12.00** It Takes A Village. **1.00** Persons Of Interest. **2.00** Late Programs.

SBS (3) **6.00** Morning Programs. **10.50** Revolution: Ideas That Changed The World. **12.00** BBC News At Ten. **12.30** ABC World News Tonight. **1.00** PBS News. **2.00** Dateline. **2.30** Insight. **3.40** The Cook Up. **4.10** Britain's Beautiful Rivers. **5.05** Jeopardy! **5.30** Letters And Numbers. **6.00** Mastermind Aust. **6.30** News. **7.30** Australia: An Unofficial History. **8.35** The Jury: Murder Trial UK. **9.30** Rogue Heroes. **10.35** SBS News. **11.05** Blackwater. New. **12.15** My Brilliant Friend. **3.20** Late Programs.

SBS VLND (31) **6.00** Morning Programs. **12.05** France 24 English News. **12.35** Hudson & Rex. **2.15** Cryptoland. **3.15** The Weekly Football Wrap. **3.50** BBC News At Ten. **4.20** ABC World News Tonight. **4.45** PBS News. **5.45** The Fast History Of. **6.10** Underground Worlds. **7.05** Jeopardy! **7.35** 8 Out Of 10 Cats. **8.30 MOVIE:** Kimi. (2022) Zoë Kravitz, Devin Ratray. **10.10** Am I Being Unreasonable? Return. **11.55** Girl, Taken. **1.40** Letterkenny. **2.35** Late Programs.

SBS MOVIES (32) **6.00** From Here To Eternity. Cont. (1953) **7.10** Sissi: The Fateful Years. (1957, German) **9.10** The Man Who Knew Infinity. (2015) **11.10** Iron Sky. (2012) **12.50** Iron Sky 2. (2019) **2.30** Sirocco. (1951) **4.20** Minari. (2020, Korean) Steven Yeun.
6.30 Breaker Morant. (1980)
8.30 Platoon. (1986)
10.45 Arkansas. (2020) **12.40** 20th Century Women. (2016) **2.55** The Road Dance. (2021) **5.00** Breaker Morant. (1980)

SEVEN (6) **6.00** Sunrise. **9.00** The Morning Show. **12.00** News At Noon. **1.00** Australian Idol. **2.45** Surveillance Oz. **3.00** Beat The Chasers UK. **4.00** News. **5.00** The Chase Australia. **6.00** News. **7.00** Home And Away. **7.30 The 1% Club UK.** **8.30 The Front Bar.** Return. **9.30** Full Sweat. New. **11.00** Autopsy USA. Return. **12.00** Covert Affairs. **2.00** TBA. **2.30** Shopping. **3.30** TBA. **4.00** NBC Today. **5.00** Sunrise Early News. **5.30** Sunrise.

7TWO (62) **6.00** TBA. **6.30** Escape To The Country. **7.30** Harry's Practice. **8.00** Million Dollar Minute. **9.00** Medical Emergency. **9.30** NBC Today. **12.00** Better Homes. **1.00** Escape To The Country. **2.00** Weekender. **2.30** Air Crash Inv. **3.30** Harry's Practice. **4.00** Medical Emergency. **4.30** Better Homes. **5.30** Escape To The Country. **6.30** Bargain Hunt. **7.30** Heartbeat. **8.45** Lewis. **10.45** Law & Order: UK. **11.45** Bargain Hunt. **12.45** My Greek Odyssey. **2.00** Late Programs.

7MATE (64) **6.00** Morning Programs. **9.00** Motor Racing. Night Thunder. Boxing Day. Replay. **10.00** Storage Wars. **10.30** American Resto. **11.00** American Pickers. **12.00** Pawn Stars. **1.00** Outback Truckers. **3.00** Billy The Exterminator. **3.30** Jade Fever. **4.30** Storage Wars. **5.00** American Resto. **5.30** American Pickers. **6.30** Pawn Stars. **7.30** Highway Patrol. **8.30** The Force: BTL. **9.30** World's Wildest Police Videos. **10.30** World's Scariest Police Chases. **11.30** Late Programs.

NINE (8) **6.00** Today. **9.00** Today Extra. **11.30** 9News Morning. **12.00** Married At First Sight. **1.30** My Way. **2.00** Pointless. **3.00** Tipping Point. **4.00** 9News Afternoon. **4.30** Tipping Point Australia. **5.30** News. **6.00** 9News. **7.00** ACA. **7.30** Married At First Sight. **9.00** Big Miracles. **10.00** 9News Late. **10.30** Casualty 24/7. **11.30** The Equalizer. **12.15** Tipping Point. **1.05** Your Next Cruise. **1.30** TV Shop. **2.30** Global Shop. **3.00** TV Shop. **4.00** Believer's Voice Of Victory. **4.30** Late Programs.

9GEM (81) **6.00** Danger Man. **7.00** Creflo. **7.30** Skippy. **8.00** TV Shop. **10.30** Pointless. **11.30** My Favorite Martian. **12.00** Days Of Our Lives. **2.00** Shakespeare And Hathaway. **3.00** Antiques Roadshow. **3.30 MOVIE:** Private's Progress. (1956) **5.30** Filthy Garden SOS. **6.30** Antiques Roadshow. **7.30** To The Manor Born. **8.00** Yes Minister. **8.40** Midsomer Murders. **10.40** The Closer. **11.35** The Real Murders Of Orange County. **12.30** Antiques Roadshow. **1.00** Creflo. **1.30** Late Programs.

9GO! (82) **6.00** Morning Programs. **10.00** Ninjago: Crystalized. **10.30** Pokémon Horizons: The Search For Laqua. **11.00** Tom And Jerry. **11.30** Bakugan. **12.00** Gossip Girl. **2.00** The Golden Girls. **2.30** The Nanny. **3.30** Seinfeld. **4.30** The Addams Family. **5.00** Bewitched. **5.30** I Dream Of Jeannie. **6.00** The Golden Girls. **6.30** The Nanny. **7.00** Basketball. WNBL. Grand Final Series. Game 1. **9.00 MOVIE:** RoboCop 3. (1993) Robert John Burke. **11.05** Seinfeld. **11.35** Late Programs.

TEN (5) **6.00** Drew Barrymore. **7.00** Neighbours. **7.30** Farm To Fork. **8.00** Bold. **8.30** Deal Or No Deal. **9.00** Lingo. **10.00** Ent. Tonight. **10.15** Australian Survivor. **11.30** Judge Judy. **12.00** Farm To Fork. **12.30** Family Feud. **1.00** News. **2.00** Wheel Of Fortune. **2.30** Lingo. **3.30** News. **4.00** Neighbours. **4.30** Bold. **5.00** News. **6.00** Deal Or No Deal. **6.30** The Project. **7.30** Dog House Aust. **8.30** Elsbeth. **9.30** NCIS: Hawai'i. **10.25** News. **10.50** The Project. **11.55** Stephen Colbert. **1.00** Shopping. **4.30** CBS Morning.

10 BOLD (53) **6.00** Shopping. **8.00** NBL Slam. **8.30** Jake And The Fatman. **9.30** Diagnosis Murder. **11.30** JAG. **1.30** My Life Is Murder. **2.30** Jake And The Fatman. **3.30** Diagnosis Murder. **5.30** JAG.
7.30 Elsbeth.
8.30 NCIS.
10.30 The Weekly Kick-Off.
11.00 Evil.
12.00 Jake And The Fatman. **12.55** Shopping. **2.25** Diagnosis Murder. **4.15** JAG.

10 PEACH (52) **6.00** Morning Programs. **8.30** Ent. Tonight. **9.00** Neighbours. **9.30** Bold. **10.00** Family Feud. **10.30** Drew Barrymore. **11.30** Deal Or No Deal. **12.00** Stephen Colbert. **1.00** The Neighborhood. **1.30** King Of Queens. **2.00** Becker. **2.30** Frasier. **3.30** Rules Of Engagement. **4.00** Farm To Fork. **4.30** King Of Queens. **5.00** Becker. **5.30** Frasier. **6.30** Neighbours. **7.00** Friends. **8.00** Big Bang. **10.00** Becker. **10.30** Frasier. **11.30** Late Programs.

Thursday

ABC TV (2) **6.00** Morning Programs. **1.00** Secret Science. Final. **1.25** The Greek Islands With Julia Bradbury. **2.00** Parliament. **3.00** Restoration Australia. **3.55** Martin Clunes: Islands Of The Pacific. **4.40** Grand Designs: The Streets. **5.30** Antiques Roadshow. **6.30** Hard Quiz. **7.00** News. **7.30** 7.30. **8.00** Grand Designs Revisited. **8.50** Grand Designs: The Streets. Return. **9.35** Tony Armstrong's Extra-Ordinary Things. **10.40** The Business. **10.55** News. **11.10** The Art Of... **11.40** Late Programs.

ABC FAMILY (22) **6.00** Kids' Programs. **5.50** Octonauts. **6.05** Kiya And The Kimoja Heroes. **6.25** The Adventures Of Paddington. **7.05** Andy And The Band. **7.35** The Inbestigators. **7.50** Little Lunch. **8.05** Fresh Off The Boat. **8.25** Matilda And The Ramsay Bunch. **8.50** Muster Dogs. **9.45** Style It Out. **10.15** Doctor Who. **11.00** Merlin. **11.45** Good Game Spawn Point. **12.25** Rage. **1.40** Operation Ouch! **2.10** Holly Hobbie. **2.30** Malory Towers. **2.55** Kids' Programs.

NITV (34) **6.00** Morning Programs. **1.00** Going Places. **2.00** Shortland St. **2.30** The Cook Up. **3.00** The Magic Canoe. **3.40** Bushwhacked! **4.05** Spartakus And The Sun Beneath The Sea. **4.35** Motown Magic. **5.00** Our Stories. **5.30** The 77 Percent. **6.00** Bamay. **6.40** Brazil Untamed. **7.30** Going Places. **8.30** Miniseries: True Colours. **9.30 MOVIE:** Top End Wedding. (2019) **11.20** My Bed, Your Bed. **11.40** Night Cries: A Rural Tragedy. **12.00** Going Places. **2.00** On The Road. **3.00** Late Programs.

SBS (3) **6.00** Morning Programs. **12.00** Cycling. Tour de France. Stage 5. Highlights. **1.00** PBS News. **2.00** A Short History Of Living Longer. **3.00** Trail Towns. **3.35** The Cook Up. **4.05** Jeopardy! **4.30** Letters And Numbers. **5.00** Tour De France 2024 Highlights Review. **6.00** Mastermind Australia. **6.30** News. **7.35** Guillaume's French Atlantic. **8.30** Martin Clunes Secret World Of Guide Dogs. **9.30** Cycling. Tour de France. Stage 6. **2.00** The Congregation. **2.50** Late Programs.

SBS VLND (31) **6.00** Morning Programs. **12.35** Hypothetical. **1.30** BBC News At Ten. **2.00** Tour De France 2024 Highlights Review. **3.00** Cycling. Tour de France. Stage 5. Highlights. **4.00** ABC World News Tonight. **4.25** PBS News. **5.25** Brooklyn Nine-Nine. **6.15** Forged In Fire. **7.05** Jeopardy! **7.35** 8 Out Of 10 Cats. **8.30** History's Greatest Heists With Pierce Brosnan. New. **10.10** The UnXplained. **11.50** Behind Bars: World's Toughest Prisons. **12.50** Dark Side Of The Ring. **1.45** Late Programs.

SBS MOVIES (32) **6.00** The Kid From The Big Apple. (2016, Mandarin) **8.15** Courted. (2015, French) **10.05** Infinite Storm. (2022) **11.55** Beyond The Summit. (2022, Spanish) **1.30** Brideshead Revisited. (2008) **3.55** Belle And Sebastian 3. (2017, French) **5.40** Spitfire. (2018) Charles Dance. **7.30** The Power Of One. (1992) Stephen Dorff. **9.50** Joe. (2013) Nicolas Cage. **12.00** In The Line Of Fire. (1993) **2.20** You Were Never Really Here. (2017) **4.00** 28 Days. (2000) **5.55** Walk With Me. (2017)

SEVEN (6) **6.00** Sunrise. **9.00** The Morning Show. **11.30** News. **12.00 MOVIE:** The Wedding Veil. (2022) **2.00** Business Builders. **2.30** Border Security: Int. **3.00** The Chase. **4.00** News. **5.00** The Chase Australia. **6.00** Seven News.
7.00 Home And Away.
8.30 Britain's Got Talent.
10.45 Air Crash Investigations.
12.45 The Goldbergs. **1.15** Criminal Confessions. **2.30** Shopping. **4.00** NBC Today. **5.00** Sunrise 5am News. **5.30** Sunrise.

7TWO (62) **6.00** Shopping. **6.30** Escape To The Country. **7.30** Medical Emergency. **8.00** Million Dollar Minute. **9.00** Harry's Practice. **9.30** NBC Today. **12.00** Better Homes. **1.00** Escape To The Country. **2.00** South Aussie With Cosi. **2.30** Auction Squad. **3.30** Harry's Practice. **4.00** Medical Emergency. **4.30** Better Homes. **5.30** Escape To The Country. **6.30** Bargain Hunt. **7.30** Father Brown. **8.30** Shetland. **11.00** Murdoch Mysteries. **12.00** Father Brown. **1.00** Bargain Hunt. **2.00** Late Programs.

7MATE (64) **6.00** Morning Programs. **10.30** American Restoration. **11.00** American Pickers. **12.00** Pawn Stars. **1.00** Highway Patrol. **1.30** The Force: BTL. **2.00** Motor MythBusters. **3.00** Billy The Exterminator. **3.30** Supercar Customiser: Yianni. **4.30** Storage Wars. **5.00** American Restoration. **5.30** American Pickers. **6.30** Pawn Stars. **7.30** Full Custom Garage. **8.30 MOVIE:** Terminator Salvation. (2009) Christian Bale. **10.50 MOVIE:** G.I. Jane. (1997) **1.25** Late Programs.

NINE (8) **6.00** Today. **9.00** Today Extra. **11.30** 9News Morning. **12.00 MOVIE:** Love Afloat. (2022) Alanna Smith. **2.00** Pointless. **3.00** Tipping Point. **4.00** 9News Afternoon. **4.30** Tipping Point Australia. **5.30** WIN News. **6.00 9News.**
7.00 A Current Affair.
7.30 Wimbledon 2024 Pre-Show.
8.00 Tennis. Wimbledon. Day 4.
12.00 Tennis. Wimbledon. Day 4 Late.
5.00 Today Early News. **5.30** Today.

9GEM (81) **6.00** Morning Programs. **8.00** TV Shop. **10.30** Pointless. **11.30** My Favorite Martian. **12.00** Days Of Our Lives. **12.55** The Young And The Restless. **1.50** Explore. **2.05** Country Life For Half The Price. **3.05** Antiques Roadshow. **3.35 MOVIE:** South Of Algiers. (1953) **5.30** Yorkshire Auction House. **6.30** Antiques Roadshow. **7.30** Rugby League. NRL. Round 18. Parramatta Eels v South Sydney Rabbitohs. **9.45** Thursday Night Knock Off. **10.30** See No Evil. **11.30** Late Programs.

9GO! (82) **6.00** Morning Programs. **10.00** Lego Dreamzzz. **10.30** Pokémon Ultimate Journeys. **11.00** Transformers: Prime. **11.30** Bakugan: Evolutions. **12.00** Resto My Ride Australia. **1.00** Young Sheldon. **1.30** Bewitched. **2.00** Full House. **2.30** The Nanny. **3.30** Seinfeld. **4.30** The Addams Family. **5.00** Bewitched. **5.30** I Dream Of Jeannie. **6.00** The Nanny. **7.00** Young Sheldon. **7.30** Seinfeld. **8.30 MOVIE:** The Beverly Hillbillies. (1993) Cloris Leachman. **10.30** Seinfeld. **11.30** Late Programs.

TEN (5) **6.00** Morning Programs. **8.30** Bold. **9.00** Dr Phil. **10.00** Everyday Gourmet. **10.30** Deal Or No Deal. **11.00** The Drew Barrymore Show. **12.00** 10 News First: Midday. **1.00** Ent. Tonight. **1.20** Judge Judy. **1.50** MasterChef Australia. **3.00** Everyday Gourmet. **3.30** 10 News First: Afternoon. **4.00** Neighbours. **4.30** Bold. **5.00** News. **6.00** Deal Or No Deal. **6.30** The Project. **7.30** Taskmaster Australia. **8.40** Law & Order: S.V.U. **10.30** 10's Late News. **10.55** The Project. **12.00** Late Programs.

10 BOLD (53) **6.00** Shopping. **8.00** What's Up Down Under. **8.30** Jake And The Fatman. **9.30** Diagnosis Murder. **11.30** JAG.
1.30 Star Trek: Voyager.
2.30 Jake And The Fatman.
3.30 Diagnosis Murder.
5.30 JAG.
7.30 NCIS.
9.25 FBI.
11.15 Blue Bloods. **12.15** Shopping. **2.15** Diagnosis Murder. **4.05** JAG.

10 PEACH (52) **6.00** Becker. **6.30** Frasier. **7.30** Stephen Colbert. **8.30** The Drew Barrymore Show. **9.30** King Of Queens. **10.00** Rules Of Engagement. **10.30** Becker. **11.00** Frasier. **12.00** Deal Or No Deal. **12.30** How We Roll. **1.00** Big Bang. **1.30** Becker. **2.00** Rules Of Engagement. **2.30** King Of Queens. **3.00** Frasier. **4.00** Everyday Gourmet. **4.30** Friends. **5.30** Big Bang. **6.30** Neighbours. **7.00** Friends. **8.00** Big Bang. **9.30** Two And A Half Men. **11.00** Rules Of Engagement. **11.30** Late Programs.

• *Heliotrope.*

Summer Weeds Thrive Across the South-West

While summer rain is helpful for pasture and crop growth, it also promotes the growth of toxic weeds.

Heliotrope, also known as potato weed, is one of the toxic weeds germinating following recent and sporadic rain in the south west.

Agriculture Victoria Meat and Wool Livestock Industry Development Officer Dr Hannah Manning said these plants flourish in degraded pastures after summer rain so the conditions have been perfect for weed growth.

"Heliotrope contains a toxin known as pyrrolizidine alkaloid that damages livestock's liver, which is also the same toxin that is found in Paterson's curse," Dr Manning said.

"Heliotrope is not tasty so stock tend to avoid it, but if there is no other feed available, they will consume it.

"The damage that is done is cumulative, which means, the liver damage increases each time an animal eats heliotrope. This may lead to liver failure or impaired copper metabolism leading to a build-up of copper in the liver.

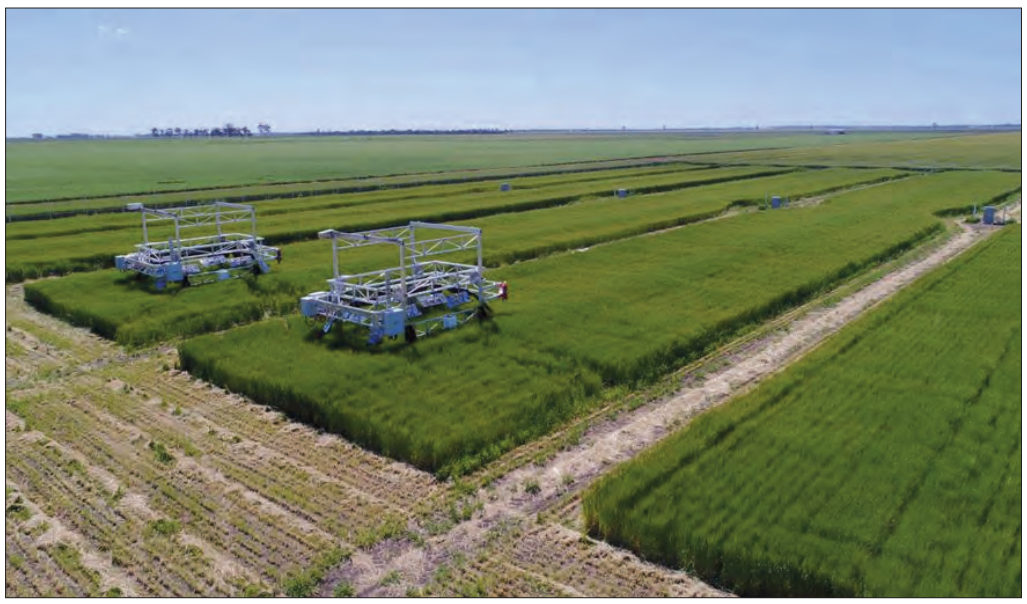
"All animals are susceptible to heliotrope poisoning."

Signs of liver damage associated with heliotrope poisoning often occur soon after cattle and horses are exposed to heliotrope and large losses of stock occasionally occur.

Dr Manning said sheep are more affected by chronic copper poisoning, which can result in sudden death when stored copper is suddenly released from the liver, leading to a haemorrhagic crisis.

"This can happen well after sheep have been exposed to Heliotrope."

The control of heliotrope involves using a combination of pasture management, grazing management, cultivation, and chemical control, consult your pasture agronomist for advice.



• *FATE Trolleys in action in the paddock.*

Dr Mary Cole Wins Victorian AgriFutures Rural Women's Award

The winner of the 2025 Victorian AgriFutures Rural Women's Award has been named as Dr Mary Cole for her pioneering work in biological farming and soil microbiology, ensuring sustainable agricultural practices for future generations.

Dr Cole accepted the award at a ceremony presented by Michaela Settle MP, Parliamentary Secretary for Regional Development and Agriculture, Victoria.

The AgriFutures Rural Women's Award, supported by platinum sponsor Westpac, is Australia's leading award in acknowledging and supporting the critical role women play in rural and regional businesses, industries and communities. It is an opportunity to celebrate forward-thinking, courageous leaders who represent some of the most vast and remote areas of Victoria.

Dr Cole received a $15,000 grant from Westpac to further support her project as well as the opportunity to undertake a professional development course of her choosing. She will go on to represent Victoria at the AgriFutures Rural Women's Award Gala Dinner and National Announcement in Canberra later in the year, where the national winner will be awarded an additional $20,000 Westpac grant and the national runner up, an additional $15,000.

An internationally recognised expert in mycology, plant pathology, and soil microbiology, Dr Cole has dedicated her career to advocating for biological farming practices that regenerate soil health, reduce synthetic chemical use, and improve the long-term sustainability of Australian agriculture.

"For more than 45 years, I have been working to promote biological farming methods that not only sustain the land but also ensure farmers remain financially viable for generations to come," Dr Cole said.

• *Michaela Settle MP (left), Parliamentary Secretary for Regional Development and Agriculture, Victoria, presents the award to Dr Cole.*

"Through education, research, and on-farm application, I have seen first-hand how prioritising soil health can transform agricultural productivity, reduce farmer input costs, and protect the environment. This award will allow me to expand my work, reaching more farmers and communities with solutions that are cost-effective and regenerative."

John Harvey, AgriFutures Australia Managing Director, said Dr Cole's work exemplifies the powerful contributions women are making in rural, regional and remote communities.

"The AgriFutures Rural Women's Award is a platform for women who are driving meaningful change and shaping the future of regional industries," Mr Harvey said.

"This Award not only recognises their impact but also equips them with the support and leadership skills to continue building a stronger, more resilient regional Australia."

Mandy Hehir, Regional General Manager, Central VIC/Gippsland, Regional and Agribusiness for Platinum Sponsor Westpac, said congratulations to Dr Mary Cole on being named the Victorian State winner of the 2025 AgriFutures Rural Women's Award.

"Dr Cole's commitment to sustainable agricultural practices through her work in biological farming and soil microbiology is outstanding and we are delighted to award her the Victorian title."

Westpac is proud to be a long-term platinum sponsor of the award and champion women who are driving positive change in rural Australia. It is an honour to support these remarkable women who are helping to build a better future for our regions, and sponsors look forward to celebrating them at the national award ceremony in September.

Expanded Facility Putting the Heat on Crop Research

A world first facility researching the impact of extreme hot and cold weather on crops is expanding thanks to support from the Victorian Government.

Minister for Agriculture Ros Spence recently announced the completion of the $1.18 million Free Air Temperature Extreme (FATE) facility expansion at the Horsham SmartFarm, doubling the size to cover about 2.5 hectares.

The FATE facility measures the impact of heat waves, drought and frost on cereal, pulse and oilseed crops, testing conditions on them at various stages to understand the impact on grain quality.

The upgraded facility is jointly funded with $386,000 from the Victorian Government and $800,000 from Grains Research and Development Corporation (GRDC).

This expansion will enable more crop rotations and experiments, accelerating the development of new heat tolerant crop varieties for farmers. The equipment can be used for future research on other crops, including different grazing pasture species.

This year the facility researched eight different wheat and lentil varieties with various growth rates under the heaters, against a control group under normal weather conditions to test the resilience of crops.

This crucial research will inform plant breeders which crop varieties can stay productive during extreme weather conditions, as the frequency and severity of these events increase in a changing climate.

The FATE facility is funded by the Victorian Government as part of Agriculture Victoria's 10-year Agriculture Strategy and the Safer Smarter Farms Program, which highlights risk management and adaptation to climate change.

GRDC's investment towards the FATE facility was part of a $20 million infrastructure program to build Australia's long-term grains research capacity and support the enduring profitability of the nation's grain growers.

To learn more about FATE, visit: https://agriculture.vic.gov.au/

• *FATE Heaters.*

Busy as a Bee

A few weeks ago on a warm summer's morning I was checking the ripening corn in our back yard vegetable patch and heard the sound of many bees busily buzzing around the tassels on the two metre tall corn plants.

Up to five bees at a time on individual plants were enthusiastically collecting nectar with their proboscises and absorbing it into their special honey sac in their bodies, and then transporting it back to the hive.

With a lifespan of only six or seven weeks, the bees have a lot of work to do and little time in which to do it, so it is no wonder they are so busy! These foraging bees start visiting flora at approximately three weeks of age and visit between 50 and 100 flowers per trip.

Now a little about the life of the honey bee. Imagine that you are a honeybee. You leave your hive one fine summer morning with your wings buzzing near 250 times per second and cruising at 25 kilometres per hour and suddenly you notice some tassels on corn plants waving in the breeze. You have found a new pollen supply for your hive. So you fill your special pouch with pollen nectar and fly the 500 metres back to your hive.

Up to this point none of the thousands of other bees in your home hive know about this exciting find which you have made. So how do you communicate this good news to the other bees so they too can access this food source?

Pioneering Work

The world owes much to the pioneering work of the Austrian scientist Dr Karl von Frisch as far as understanding the communication skills of the bee is concerned. He spent over 25 years performing countless observations discovering much fascinating information. In fact he won the Nobel prize for Physiology in 1973 for his work. Dr Frisch discovered that to communicate the location of a food source too distant from the hive to be smelt or seen by the other bees, the scout bee uses the "language of the bees". This includes performing a complex figure eight "dance".

• *Bruce Stewart*

The dance waggle direction done in relation to the position of the sun communicates very clearly to other bees all details they need as far as direction is concerned and intensity of the waggle determines the distance. Bees travel with minimum fuel load to a pollen collection spot so that they can have maximum payload on the return flight. Bees can carry their own weight of nectar!

Complexity

When we consider the complexity of the honey bee "figure eight dance" we can see evidence of complex design. As writer Robert Doolan records, "Among the wonders of God's creation, the honeybee provides some startling evidence for design and purpose by the Creator".

We need to be grateful for the amazing achievements of the hard working bees. Researchers tell us it takes approximately 556 worker bees visiting 2 million flowers to produce 450 grams of honey. One teaspoon full of honey is the lifetime work of 14 bees! Be grateful our Creator has endowed us with many blessings on planet earth including the honey bee. The Bible says: "How many are Your works, Lord! In wisdom You made them all" (Psalm 104:24).

The next time you see or hear the buzzing of bees gaining pollen from various flowering plants and then taking this pollen back to the hive where it is wonderfully made into honey, pause and give thanks to our Creator God who has not only revealed Himself through the complexity and beauty of creation, sin damaged as it is now, but also revealed Himself through His Son the Lord Jesus Christ. We have much to be thankful for. Enjoy your honey – I know I do!

Bruce Stewart.

The Buloke Times
Est. 1875

Coloured Photographs

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

Photos not published may also be available.

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

Are you a landholder who may be impacted by the proposed

VNI WEST TRANSMISSION LINE?

If yes, we are extending an opportunity for you to provide input to the Agricultural Impact study.

The Agricultural Impact study is part of the Environmental Effects Statement or EES which is a process that aims to ensure feedback from landowners is included in project planning and decisions and is a key document informing Government of the projects impacts to assist the decision if the project goes ahead or not.

RMCG is an independent consulting firm with a 35 year history of working in the fields of agriculture, environment, and regional development and we have been engaged to assess the potential agricultural impacts of the VNI West transmission line's construction and operation.

RMCG are keen to better understand first hand landholder's concerns related to agricultural impacts caused by both the construction activity, and the ongoing operation of the Transmission lines. RMCG also want to learn from landowners on actions that may minimise these impacts.

Your insights as a landowner along the proposed route will help ensure that the study accurately reflects the potential agricultural impacts this project may cause.

The discussions will be kept confidential and the information gathered will be used to help inform the Agricultural Impact report.

How to Participate

To register your interest to have a one-on-one discussion at a time and place most convenient for you please call the RMCG at our Bendigo office on 03 5441482. Our senior team members George Warne or Daryl Poole will then be in contact with you to arrange a suitable time and place to catch up with you.

Alternatively, if you simply wish to respond to a survey, please access the online survey using the link or QR code.

Less-Than-Impressive Fire Services Request

Victorians paid a staggering 22 per cent more for Fire Rescue Victoria last year at the same time the organisation fails to meet its response time targets.

The Fire Rescue Victoria (FRV) annual report released this week shows total grants from State Government have grown to $1.07 billion, an increase of $192 million or 22 per cent.

This funding currently comes from the Fire Services Property Levy paid by all Victorian ratepayers and is forecast to increase under the proposed new Emergency Services and Volunteer Fund.

Employee expenses have risen by $41.2 million and overtime by more than $20 million to a staggering $125 million.

Despite the increased funding from all Victorians, FRV remained $104 million in deficit.

Shadow Minister for Emergency Services, Danny O'Brien said Victorians were paying more and getting less.

"FRV has missed its response time target for structure fires and other incidents and yet we are all paying more," said Mr O'Brien.

"This comes at the same time that the CFA's budget has been reduced consistently over the last four years, including by $2.2 million last financial year.

"FRV spent a staggering $32 million on consultancies, much of it related to a cyber-attack in 2022, with $27,364 allocated to annual report design concepts and artwork."

Victorians will be questioning if they're getting value from an organisation that continues to gobble up taxpayer funds.

"The Government can't manage money, can't manage our fire services and it's Victorians who are paying the price both in increased fire levies, and performance not meeting the government's own targets."

• *Danny O'Brien.*

Call for Health Reforms

[From Catholic Health Australia]

Catholic Health Australia (CHA) is calling for reforms to sustain and improve vital hospital and aged care services and patient care for the millions of people living in rural and remote Australia.

"Due to smaller patient volumes and higher costs, regional and remote hospital and aged care services are under the most severe pressures, including financial and workforce," said CHA CEO Jason Kara.

"We want to ensure the one in three Australians who live outside a capital city have the same choice, access and quality of care as everyone else."

In its budget submissions on health and aged care, CHA supports the government's proposal to increase default benefits – the minimum insurers must pay for a treatment - for non-metropolitan hospitals.

Default Benefit

CHA is also calling for the introduction of a default benefit for hospital-in-the-home services such as end-of-life care and dialysis, which polling demonstrates 87 per cent of Australians support.

"Default benefits are particularly important in regional areas where services are limited. Increasing them would help put services on a sustainable footing," said Mr Kara.

"Right now many regional and rural patients are travelling long distances for care they could have in the comfort of their homes if only their insurers funded it. A default benefit for hospital-in-the-home care would shift decision making away from insurers and empower patients and their doctors to decide where they receive their care."

Critical Issue

Access to aged care remains a critical issue in regional, rural, and remote areas. CHA is urging the government to invest in capital funding to ensure older Australians, regardless of where they live, can access safe and high-quality care.

"After years of losses, services simply don't have the money to expand, upgrade, or refurbish to meet growing demand. The government must boost investment in capital to fund crucial infrastructure upgrades and builds, such as staff accommodation, to ensure viability of services in regional, rural and remote areas."

Aged care services in mining towns such as Broken Hill and Kalgoorlie are at substantial risk as they receive a low geographic weighting for funding despite their remote status due to an antiquated quirk in the system.

The funding model, called the Modified Monash Model, does not accurately reflect the high cost of service provision in mining towns. CHA is calling on the government to change the categorisation for these communities to ensure aged care providers can continue to operate sustainably.

"The current funding model does not account for the unique economic conditions in regional mining towns," Mr Kara said. "Providers in these areas are struggling with extreme cost pressures, and without targeted support, aged care services may be forced to close, leaving older residents without local care options."

Submissions

In its submissions, CHA is also calling on the government to:

• Lift default benefits from 85 per cent to 100 per cent for hospitals in Rural, Remote and Metropolitan Area.

• Use private hospital capacity to treat public patients on long waitlists.

• Subsidise wage growth in private hospitals.

• Increase funding to services in rural and remote mining towns like Broken Hill and Kalgoorlie with high costs.

• Fund and deliver enough aged care packages to meet demand.

About CHA

Catholic Health Australia (CHA) is Australia's largest non-government, not-for-profit group of health, community, and aged care providers. Its members operate 80 hospitals in each Australian state and the ACT, providing around 30 per cent of private hospital care and 5 per cent of public hospital care, in addition to extensive community and residential aged care. There are 63 private hospitals operated by CHA members, including St Vincent's, Calvary, Mater, St John of God and Cabrini. CHA members also provide approximately 12 per cent of all aged care facilities across Australia, in addition to around 20 per cent of home care services. 25 per cent of our members' service provision is regional, rural and remote.

Community Update Buloke.

Final Opportunity to Have Your Say – 2025/26 Annual Budget & Long-Term Financial Plan

The development of the Draft 2025/26 Annual Budget and the review of Council's Long-Term Financial Plan is underway. Community feedback is a key part of this process to ensure that the budget helps to shape the future of our services, infrastructure and key community projects.

Feedback can be provided by:

- Submitting a response by completing an online survey via the QR code
- Written submission via postal mail to PO Box 1 Wycheproof, VIC 3527 Attn: Buloke Shire Council Finance Team
- Written submission via email to Council's records department – buloke@buloke.vic.gov.au
- Submitting a response by completing a hardcopy survey available at Council's Customer Service Centre - Wycheproof Shire Office
- Submitting a response by completing a hardcopy or online survey at the Community Summit Event hosted by Council on Monday 17 March 2025 in the Wycheproof Supper Room from 6pm. (Attendees are asked to please RSVP ahead of time to the Customer Service Centre by phoning 1300 520 520).

The community consultation period for the 2025/26 Annual Budget and Long-Term Financial Plan has been running for 4 weeks and concluding on 19 March 2025.

For more information, please visit www.buloke.vic.gov.au or call 1300 520 520.

Buloke Shire Aquatic Strategy Survey – Now Open

Council is currently seeking input into the development of its new Aquatic Strategy. The strategy will provide a framework for future strategic direction, infrastructure development, and operational enhancement of our seven outdoor pools in Berriwillock, Birchip, Charlton, Donald, Sea Lake Watchem and Wycheproof.

To participate, complete the online survey by scanning the QR code OR visit the Have Your Say page at www.buloke.vic.gov.au

Hardcopies of the survey are also available from any one of our pools or the Wycheproof Customer Service Centre.

The survey is open until 17 March 2025.

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

BULOKE SHIRE COUNCIL

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

Administration Assistant (Casual) - Wycheproof 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.

Building Maintenance Officer - Permanent (Full Time). From $34.54 per hour (+ statutory superannuation)
→ Applications Close: 14 March 2025

We are looking for a team oriented and motivated person to join the Building and Property team. In this role you will be carrying out building and asset maintenance services to Council owned buildings, associated structures and furniture in a manner which complies with all legislative and regulatory requirements.

Open Spaces Maintenance Officer - Permanent Full Time. From $34.54 per hour (+ statutory superannuation)
→ Applications Close: 14 March 2025

We are looking for a team oriented and motivated person to join the Building and Property team. In this role you will be carrying out maintenance services to Council owned properties and associated infrastructure in a manner which complies with all legislative and regulatory requirements.

Urban and Parks Maintenance Operators (Casual). From $38.17 per hour (incl. industry allowance, casual loading + statutory superannuation)
→ Applications are now open!

We are looking for pro-active and self-motivated individuals to join our Open Spaces team and help with routine upkeep and improvement to Councils' outdoor spaces and urban areas. Successful applicants will join a casual pool of candidates who will be allocated shifts on an as needed basis and have the potential to join the open spaces team permanently, given the availability.

Panthers Pounce on "B" Grade Prize

It's been years since Watchem has tasted premiership glory, but on Saturday a big crowd was at the Marnoo ground to see it happen against last season's "B" grade premiers, Donald-Jeffcott.

From start to finish, Watchem could hardly have hoped for a better team effort.

First, Panthers captain Connor Boyle won the toss and elected to bat. Welcoming the decision, Ty Colbert scored 14, Daniel Slater 16, Daniel Tartarskyj 23, Austin Dean 33, Connor Boyle 22, Jam Borden 20, Riley Hogan 8 not out, and Noah Dean 8, for a challenging total of 9/183, in 40 overs.

Among the five Donald-Jeffcott bowlers who shared the wickets, Niluka Nannayakkara took 3/48 (8), and Jake Needs 2/15 (8).

Donald-Jeffcott's reply was almost a one-man effort, with opener Sam Postlethwaite's 46 (with 5 fours and 2 sixes) being more than half the team's 40-overs total of 84. Successful Watchem bowlers were Austin Dean 3/28 (8), Connor Boyle 3/37 (7.2), Ty Colbert 2/5 (4), and Sam Milne 1/13 (4).

• *Right: Watchem Panthers' premiership side: back row from left, Daniel Taytarskyi, Tye Colbert, Josh Woods, Austin Dean, Sam Milne, Seamus Lowry. Middle, Daniel Slater, Jam Borden, Riley Hogan, Noah Dean. Front, Jeremy Dean and Connor Boyle. – Photo by Kim Fitzpatrick.*

Donald-Jeffcott Defends "A" Grade Title

• **Continued from page 16.**

Birchip's prospects were looking anything but bright.

Not that the Swans showed any signs of throwing in the towel. In fact, by the time Donald-Jeffcott had hit the front, it had lost 5 wickets to the bowling of captain Riley Doran, 2/15 (5.5), Jonty Randall, 2/15 (5), and Rylee Smith, 1/11 (6).

• *Man of the Match, Eddie Landwehr.*

• *A hesitation, but eventually the winning run by Donald's Lachlan Jones and Nic Atkins.*

Birchip Mid-Week Bowls

The final of the 21 Up championship has been completed, with Pauline Bragg playing her daughter, Carolyn Reid.

Leading up to the final both ladies were playing excellent bowls, but after playing two games against other bowlers, it was decided to play the final at a later date as the day turned out hot.

Thursday of last week the final was played at 9 a.m.. The cooler conditions would have been appreciated by both bowlers. Pauline commenced with a handicap of 5, while Carolyn was 10.

I was not able to be there again, but from the score card sent to me, it certainly was an excellent game. At 25 ends Pauline was well off her handicap and was in the positive of 16 shots to Carolyn's 7. From this time until the 36th end Carolyn made ground by winning single shots with Pauline winning only four ends; Pauline 20 shots to Carolyns 19. Carolyn took the 37th end to level the score and at the final end scored 3 shots, winning 23 to 20. Congratulations Carolyn, this has been a successful year for you.

Congratulations are extended to the ladies who came home from the Donald tournament with the runner-up prize.

"Off the Green"

• *Carolyn Reid.*

• *On the inside, Hellovatime, driven by Neil McCallum, defeats Melfield Soryt driven by James Herberston in the O'Connors Case IH maiden pace.*

Mallee Bull Cup – Abandoned

• **Continued from page 16.**

Race five: This race was run in very trying conditions – wind, rain and dust. Driver Sean O'Sullivan driving the Ashley Herbertson-trained Im Shadow Boxer came with a well-timed run down the outside to win.

Coming Up

Charlton, next Sunday, March 16.

• *Above: The Michael Gadsden-trained Surprise To Me, driven by Luke Dunne, defeats the Scott Torney-trained and driven Tension Seeker in the Mallee Bull Landscapes trot.*

• *Right: Tom McLoughlin and his son Tom Junior present the rug and that famous trophy to Ken Fagan, representing the Brent Lilley stable after the win of Johns Boy in the TMCEnviro Birchip Mallee Bull Trotters' Cup.*

Both Birchip Teams Into Tennis Finals

Round 14 of NCLTA tennis action was a banner day for the Birchip Tennis Club with both teams, Birchip and Wirrim, qualifying for the finals. It was the first time both teams have qualified since the club formed two teams at beginning of the 2019/2020 season.

All eight NCLTA teams travelled to St Arnaud for the Association's version of "Gather Round" and it was a heart-warming sight to have all players competing at the same venue.

Prior to the commencement of play the late Lorys Greenall was honoured in the St Arnaud clubrooms with the unveiling of the Lorys Greenall Memorial Kitchen plaque. Lorys was a life member at St Arnaud and well known to all NCLTA regulars. It was fitting that so many were present for the unveiling of the plaque.

On-court, the day was less pressured-packed for Wirrim which had already secured a finals berth. Nevertheless if results went its way a first-place finish was achievable, so a strong showing was hoped for. It wouldn't be an easy task coming up against perennial powerhouse, Nullawil.

Nullawil's premier female player Simone Fawcett has regularly featured in the men's section for the Maroons this season and she finished her campaign in fine style as a three-set winner. Simone teamed up with David Watts to defeat Jon Haslam and Kasper Palmelund 8-3, she paired with Tony Bartram to defeat Russell Christie and Palmelund 8-1, and in the mixed she joined daughter Jessie to beat Christie and Sandie Richmond 8-4. Taya Bartram and Tessa Sheahan also played in the men's section for Nullawil and were able to defeat father/son Jarrod and Denley Tyler 8-6.

Other three-set winners for Nullawil were Tony Bartram (a fabulous effort after celebrating his 60th birthday the night before) and Gemma Fawcett who was clinical in her role as #1 woman.

Despite the excellent results of the above players, Wirrim had its fair share of strong contributors. Des Coffey was a three-set winner, playing with an intriguing set of partners. Firstly, Des and Jarrod Tyler defeated Taya and Dane Bartram 8-0, then the primary-school pairing of Des and Denley Tyler defeated Tessa Sheahan and Dane Bartram 8-5. To complete his day, Des paired with his mother, Stephanie Coffey, for an 8-2 win against Dane Bartram and Di Sheahan.

Carling McEvoy was the other three-set winner for Wirrim, pairing with Tylah Haslam for a hard-fought 8-6 win over Di Sheahan and Marg Pollington before recording 8-1 wins playing with Sandie Richmond and Denley Tyler respectively.

Nullawil won the men's section and Wirrim the women's, with the latter holding a one-game lead going into the mixed sets. Although it was three sets apiece in the mixed results, some more comprehensive victories for Wirrim saw them take the section and the overall match 104 games to 93. Despite the strong victory, other results did not go Wirrim's way so it had to settle for third-place on the association ladder at the end of the home-and-away rounds.

In the other fixture involving Birchip Tennis Club, Birchip took on reigning premiers Donald. Prior to the match Charlton, Birchip and Donald were vying for the fourth and final spot in top four.

In the men's section it was Donald which took the early ascendancy. Derek Hollis was impressive at #1 man for the Royal Blues, with two 8-3 victories playing with Jesse Higgins and Braxton Hollis. For Birchip, George Addis and Andy Barber managed an 8-6 win over Samuel Mortlock and Max Reilly, but this would be their only successful set in the men's section.

The women's section was a different story, with Birchip's De-Anne Ferrier in impeccable form for the Swans. De-Anne and Julie Coffey defeated Jacob Bath and Cherie Reilly 8-1, while De-Anne and Jo Lee accounted for Jacob Bath and Meaghan King 8-0. While Birchip managed only one win in the men's section, it was Donald which was restricted to one win in the women's. Mother/son pair Cherie and Jack Reilly defeated Julie Coffey and Asha Lee 8-5, but all other women's sets went the way of the Swans.

Birchip held a narrow five-game lead going into the mixed sets. Donald veterans Derek Hollis and Mark Mortlock became three-set winners with wins playing with Jacob Bath and Jack Reilly respectively. For Birchip, De-Anne Ferrier, Jo Lee, Beau Haslam and Georgie Warne became three set winners as well.

The seven mixed sets were shared four wins to Birchip and three wins to Donald, which was enough for the Swans to take a three-game win in the section and an eight-game win overall. It was a narrow but crucial victory.

Birchip now had a keen eye on the Kara Kara v. Charlton match as it required Kara Kara to win all three sections to ensure Birchip would play finals and Charlton would not. It came down to the wire, as although Kara Kara comfortably won the men's and mixed sections, the women's section was perilously close. The final women's set of the contest would determine the winner of the section and, ultimately, who would play finals. Amazingly the set went to a tiebreak with Kara Kara winning. Birchip had snuck into the finals on percentage and all Birchip Tennis Club members rejoiced.

Wirrim and Birchip now await the two St Arnaud-based teams, Kara Kara and St Arnaud, in the semi-finals to be played at Wycheproof on March 15.

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Wimmera-Mallee Cricket Scoreboard

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Grand Final:

"A" Grade

Donald-Jeffcott d. Birchip

BIRCHIP

H. McCredden, c N. Atkins b D. Atkins	1
W. Marks, c N. Atkins b E. Landwehr	0
M. Trollope, b D. Atkins	4
R. Doran, c R. Bath b E. Landwehr	1
R. Smith, b D. Atkins	11
L. Randall, not out	23
C. Lee, c K. Westerland b E. Landwehr	4
J. Paley, b E. Landwehr	0
J. Randall, c K. Westerland b D. Atkins	0
K. Hamilton, c D. Atkins b N. Atkins	6
R. Bennett, b N. Atkins	0
Sundries	6
TOTAL (for 10 wickets)	56

Bowling: E. Landwehr 4/15 (8), D. Atkins 4/18 (8), N. Atkins 2/6 (5), C. Anderson 0/15 (4).

DONALD-JEFFCOTT

C. Anderson, c W. Marks b R. Doran	15
A. Schofield, c W. Marks b J. Randall	3
D. Atkins, lbw J. Randall	4
L. Jones, not out	29
J. Adams, b R. Doran	0
K. Westerland, b R. Smith	0
N. Atkins, not out	0
Sundries	6
TOTAL(for 5 wickets)	57

Bowling: J. Randall 2/15 (5), R. Doran 2/15 (5.5), R. Smith 1/11 (6), C. Lee 0/11 (2).

"B" Grade

Watchem d. Donald-Jeffcott

WATCHEM

T. Colbert, c J. Tellefson b J. Needs	14
D. Slater, c K. Green b N. Nanayakkara	16
D. Tatarskyj, c J. Tellefson b J. Donnellon	23
J. Woods, c&b J. Needs	3
A. Dean, b N. Nanayakkara	33
C. Boyle, b C. Anderson	22
J. Borden, b T. Reekie2	0
R. Hogan, not out	9
S. Milne, lbw N. Nanayakkara	0
N. Dean, run out Postlethwaite, K. Green	8
Sundries	15
TOTAL (for 9 wickets)	163

Fall of wicket: 22, 35, 55, 57, 104, 143, 146, 146, 163.

Bowling: T. Reekie 1/28 (8), N. Nanayakkara 3/46 (8), C. Anderson 1/26 (8), J. Donnellon 1/37 (7), J. Needs 2/15 (8), C. Campbell 0/9 (1).

DONALD-JEFFCOTT

S. Postlethwaite, b T. Colbert	46
J. Tellefson, b C. Boyle	1
A. Bayles, c&b C. Boyle	9
K. Green, run out T. Colbert, D. Tatarskyj	2
T. Reekie, c D. Tatarskyj b T. Colbert	1
J. Needs, c&b S. Milne	1
C. Anderson, lbw A. Dean	2
G. Pearse, c D. Tatarskyj b A. Dean	7
C. Campbell, c D. Slater b A. Dean	1
N. Nanayakkara, lbw C. Boyle	0
J. Donnellon, not out	4
Sundries	10
TOTAL (for 10 wickets)	84

Fall of wicket: 7, 29, 54, 55, 65, 66, 69, 73, 80, 84.

Bowling: A. Dean 3/28 (8), C. Boyle 3/37 (7.2), S. Milne 1/13 (4), T. Colbert 2/5 (4).

The Buloke Times
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SPORT

Mallee Bull Cup – Abandoned

• *Finish of the TMCEnviro Birchip Mallee Bull Trotters' Cup. On the inside, John's Boy, driven by Tristan Larsen, defeats Watch And Act, driven by James Herberston. After this race, the meeting was postponed.*

• *One of the memorial races run was the Jack Donnellon Memorial Trot. Members of the Donnellon family celebrated the win of Franc. Stable representative Ken Fagan holds the cup and rug.*

(By Peter Hibberd)

The famous after party for the Mallee Bull Cups meeting at Birchip started early when H.R.V. stewards abandoned the last three races, for the health and safety of all concerned with continuous lightning in the local area.

Club president Travis Knights met with stewards and was given a briefing of their decision. The pacing cup will be run at Charlton this Sunday, preference in field selection will be given to horses which accepted for the abandoned Birchip Pacing Cup.

Mallee Bull Trotters' Cup

The Trotters' Cup for the famous trophy was a very keen race. The time for the race broke the track record by an amazing 7.3 seconds. The previous time has stood since January 2004.

As was expected, John's Boy won the race but had to fight very hard to hold off challengers.

The win gave Brent Lilley and Tristan Larsen a training and driving double. This horse has New Zealand owners.

Travis and His Team

Another amazing effort by Travis, Brad and their big team. The list of sponsors continues to grow with thirty-two names in the race book. The crowd was again very big with many enjoying the marquee village. I wonder what time the party finished?

Well done to all!

Results

Race one: The Brent Lilley and Tristan Larsen training and driving combination started the day off well with the win of three-year-old trotter, Franc. This was only its third race start. This trotter is part-owned by Greg and Nina Hope, from New Zealand, who have had success in some very big races.

Race two: Charlton trainer Michael Gadsden had success with Surprise To Me, driven by Luke Dunne, defeating Tension Seeker for trainer/driver Scott Torney. This hose was only recently purchased in an online auction. New owner Emily Wombwell has seen this trotter race on six occasions for two wins and four placings; a very good purchase.

Race three: Poppy Popstar trained by Tarah McNamara from Wedderburn returned to winning form with a track record win in the Ryan Commodities trot. It has shown a lot of ability but does have a few tricks.

Race four: The O'Connors Case IH Maiden Pace was a very keen race with many moves made. Hellovatime, driven by Neil McCallum was able to lead and hold on for a narrow win. Trained by Owen Martin from Stawell, who said he loved coming to these meetings.

• **Continued on page 15.**

Donald-Jeffcott Defends "A" Grade Title

The pressure was on from the very first over on Saturday, at Anzac Park, Warracknabeal, where bowlers claimed almost all the honours, before Donald-Jeffcott emerged as winner of Wimmera-Mallee cricket's 2024-25 "A" grade premiership.

The exception among the Donald-Jeffcott batsmen was all-rounder, Lachie Jones, whose unbeaten innings carried his team to victory as wickets fell around him.

A similar role was played earlier in the day by Birchip Swans' Lachy Randall, whose 23 not out, and Rylee Smith's 11, were the Swans' only double-figure scores in a less-than-impressive total of 56 in 25 overs.

With Donald-Jeffcott bowlers Eddie Landwehr, 4/15 (8), and Daniel Atkins, 4/18 (8), in red-hot form, and Nicholas Atkins, 2/6 (5) cleaning up the innings early,

• **Continued on page 14.**

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• *"A" grade premiers, Donald-Jeffcott. Standing, left to right: Eddie Landwehr, Curtis Rice, Nicolas Atkins, Lachlan Jones, Will Noble, Jett Adams, Luca Rice. Front: Aaron Schofield Dan Atkins, Cooper Anderson,(captain), Ryan Bath, Koby Westerland.*