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The Buloke Times

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



• Gathering at the Donald Mall.

Eleventh Hour, Eleventh Day, Eleventh Month . . .

A group of Donald residents paused from their daily routine at 11 a.m. on Tuesday, November 11, to reflect on service personnel who had represented Australia in times of war.

Unavoidably absent from the gathering were leaders of the Donald sub-branch of the R.S.L., Carmel and Alan

Dugan. Very capably standing in for them was Donald resident Laurie Pearse, who spoke briefly of the sacrifice made

by members of our armed services in conflicts far and wide.

On a personal note, Laurie also made reference to his

grandfather, the late Edmund "Ted" Pearse who, in his time with the 10th Field Ambulance in World War I, had experienced "two lucky escapes".

Laurie then reminded those present of the events

which have led to the annual Remembrance Day commemoration, as follows.

The First World War was, in its time, the most destructive conflict yet experienced by humanity. When it began in August 1914, few imag-

ined the course that it would take or foresaw its terrible toll.

From a population of just under 5 million, more than 400,000 Australians enlisted in the Australian Imperial

• Continued on page 2.

Remembrance Service at Birchip Cenotaph

Despite the cold and windy conditions, a strong crowd gathered in Cumming Avenue at the Birchip Cenotaph on Tuesday, November 11, to honour those who served and sacrificed for their country.

The service was led by Birchip RSL Sub-Branch President Shane McLoughlan, who welcomed RSL members, community representatives and the school students to pause in reflection and remembrance.

During his address, Shane reminded those gathered of the significance of the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month, when the guns on the Western Front fell silent in 1918 after more than four years of continuous warfare.

He spoke of the millions who were killed or wounded and the many who were never found, and asked that the community also remember those

who returned home carrying the physical, emotional and spiritual scars of war.

Wreaths were laid by representatives from the RSL, Buloke Shire Council, CERT, Legacy, Birchip Forum and Birchip P-12 School, followed by a minute's silence and the playing of "The Rouse".

The haunting sound of the bagpipes, played by Carolyn Hogan, added to the solemn mood of the occasion and gave attendees time to reflect on the 70 million people involved in this conflict where approximately 16 million died and as many as one third of these had no named grave.

Flags were raised by Elisa Cox and Eliza Gould, while Denita Donnan performed an acappella version of the National Anthem, her voice rising above the wind and filling the cenotaph precinct with quiet emotion.

In closing, Mr McLoughlan thanked the people who played a role in the service, everyone who attended and those who purchased poppies in support of veterans.

He also added that refurbishment works planned for the Cenotaph area are expected to commence soon and are hoped to be completed by Anzac Day 2026.



• Piper, Carolyn Hogan (left) and Shane McLoughlan.



• Elisa Gould and Elise Cox flag raisers, Denita Donnan singing National Anthem.

Timelines Merge At Charlton Remembrance Day

Connecting the past to the present in a meaningful way was the context of the Charlton RSL Sub-Branch's commemoration of the 107th Remembrance Day marking the cessation of hostilities of World War 1.

Highlighting the First and Second World War service of three local soldiers – Private Frank Reginald Elder, Private Gordon McGillivray and Corporal Frank Stewart Rich – last Tuesday's commemoration showed that these histories weren't the only defining qualities bringing them to the public's attention; it was the attendance of relatives, or association by place, which gave these men a reality which mere words on a page don't always yield.

For the small crowd which braved the cool November conditions, the symbols of remembrance were abundant in the area outside the Charlton RSL Clubroom. From the tiny white crosses with their red poppies encircling the base of the Lone Pine, to the verdant rosemary bushes proliferating nearby, the poignancy of the occasion was further heightened by the recitation of John McCrae's evocative poem, "In Flanders Fields" by RSL Club secretary, Bill Freeman.

MCing the proceedings, RSL President, Alan

McGillivray, followed the traditional service which included the Last Post before a minute's silence was observed at 11am. The saying of the Ode and music of the Rouse concluded the formalities before relatives and the general public were invited to pay their respects by laying a poppy in remembrance of the fallen.

Connections

Connections of the three local servicemen invited to attend Tuesday's function included: Robert Elder, (great-uncle Frank Elder from Dooboobetic – was killed on 20th August 1916, aged just 21); the McGillivray family, (great uncle Gordon McGillivray from Yeungroon – who took part in the Battle of Messines and was killed in action on 11th June 1917, age 26), and Carmel Catherine (proprietor of the Vale of Avoca) representing Frank Rich – a Second World War enlistee whose place of abode was given as the Vale of Avoca.

The conversations generated about each of these men

helped to shape a picture of who they were and flesh out more than just a name or a service number. The McGillivray family had researched in detail the service information about their relative, while Carmel Catherine was able to provide a living link, through location, to Frank Rich.

While these men met untimely ends in conflicts far from home – Frank Elder (Poizieres, France), Gordon McGillivray (Messines, Belgium) and Frank Rich (Vevi, Greece) – this adds ever more poignancy to their loss at such young ages. The sharing of their stories in a contemporary setting helps to transcend the sepia photos, and on days such as last Tuesday, reminds us of the sacrifices made in past and the commitments of the servicemen and women of today in peace-keeping actions across the world.

The ceremony concluded with an invitation to all to share morning tea and refreshments in the RSL Club room.



Representatives of the three servicemen recognized at the 2025 Charlton Remembrance Day are, left to right, Robert Elder (great uncle Frank Reginald Elder WW1), Alan McGillivray and Glenyse Chamberlain (McGillivray) (great uncle Gordon McGillivray WW1), Carmel Catherine (representing Frank Stewart Rich WW2) through the association with the Vale of Avoca, and Jenny McGillivray (the McGillivray family).

Eleventh Hour, Eleventh Day, Eleventh Month . . .

Continued from page 1.

Force – the AIF, the force that Australia sent to the war – and more than 330,000 served overseas. For most, this meant



Church Notices

UNITING CHURCH (North Central Living Waters Cluster)

Donald, 10 a.m.
Wycheproof, 10 a.m.
Birchip, 10 a.m.
Contact Number: 5497 1033

DISTRICT CATHOLIC CHURCHES "East Wimmera Parish"

Birchip	8.30 a.m.
Boort	10.30 a.m.
(Livestream in)	
Banyena	No Mass
Charlton (Sat.)	7.00 p.m.
Donald	10.30 a.m.
(Livestream out to churches without Mass)	
St. Arnaud	10.30 a.m.
(Livestream in)	
Wycheproof	10.30 a.m.
(Livestream in)	

Fr. Gerry Prunty
0419 247 779
Parish Co-ordinator
– Noline Hogan: 0476 617 976

Gallipoli, the Middle East or the war's main theatre: the Western Front in France and Belgium.

Devastating Toll

More than 60,000 Australians lost their lives, a devastating toll for a small country. Yet they were a relative few. Around the world, some 10 million military personnel died in what was then called the Great War.

Families and communities everywhere were affected by the enormous loss. When the Armistice ended the fighting on November 11, 1918, celebrations in the victorious nations were tempered by grief and sorrow.

In Britain and the countries of her empire, the day's anniversary became known as Armistice Day.

In 1919 and every year since, at 11 a.m. on November 11, people have paused to remember the dead.

So great had been the loss of life, so devastating had been the destruction, that people

hoped, even imagined, that the Great War would be "the war to end wars". But it was not to be.

Two decades after the First World War ended, the world was plunged into a second global conflict.

Change of Name

No longer could Armistice day remain a day only to remember the dead of the First World War. After the Second World War ended in 1945, November 11 became known as Remembrance Day.

The day's sombre associations have never changed. When we pause at 11 a.m. on November 11, we reflect on the price that Australia and countries around the world have paid through more than a century of war and conflict that followed the First World War.

Rounding out Tuesday's solemn ceremony was the reading of the Ode, a period of silence, the playing of the "Last Post" and "Rouse", and singing of the National Anthem.



A small crowd gathered outside the Charlton RSL Club room last Tuesday for Remembrance Day. As the RSL states the day is to – "Honour the fallen. Respect the returned. Salute the serving."



RSL Secretary, Bill Freeman recites the evocative poem "In Flanders Fields", which memorializes the tragedy of the Ypres Salient battle amid the natural beauty of the region. President Alan McGillivray is also pictured (right).

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[From VICGRID]

VNI West is a planned 500 kilovolt (kV) double-circuit transmission line that will link Victoria's Western Renewables Link with Project EnergyConnect in New South Wales.

Confidence

“As Victoria reforms how transmission infrastructure is developed, VicGrid looks forward to working closely with Iberdrola and local stakeholders to deliver VNI West responsibly and ensure landholder and community voices are central to the process.”

From November 1, 2025, VicGrid assumed responsibility for VNI West from the Australian Energy Market Operator.

staff and contracts have been transferred to VicGrid and all existing agreements with landholders and communities will be honoured.

During the development phase, VicGrid will lead VNI West's development with Iberdrola supporting activities such as project design, procurement, planning approvals, the Environment Effects Statement (EES) process and engagement.

"We're proud to partner with VicGrid on VNI West and to play a key role in delivering one of Victoria's most significant energy infrastructure projects," said Iberdrola Australia Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Ross Rolfe, AO.

“We recognise the importance of building trusted relationships with landholders and local communities, and we’re committed to working closely with VicGrid to ensure respectful and transparent engagement throughout the project.”

A photograph of two women standing outdoors. The woman on the left has short, wavy grey hair and is wearing a leopard print jacket over a black top, a gold chain necklace, and a name tag. She is holding a wooden gavel. The woman on the right has blonde hair, wears glasses, a white lab coat over a dark shirt, a necklace, and a name tag. They are both smiling. The background shows green foliage and a street with a fire truck.

• *Northern Grampians Mayor, Cr. Karen Hyslop (left), and Deputy Mayor, Cr. Justine Hide.*

The pair will continue to serve alongside Crs Jenny Greenberger, Jack Blake, Murray Emerson and Karen Probst, who are looking forward to embarking on their second year of a four-year council term.

Cr Hyslop said councillors had enjoyed a busy 12 months, helping deliver several key plans and strategic documents designed to shape the municipality for the next four to 10 years.

“We have had a massive year, developing our four-year Council Plan and Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan, along with several other plans and documents that set the direction for our shire and our people,” she said.

Community Engagement

“The information and opinions we received throughout the process has helped shape our strategic direction for the next four years and also informed our 10-year asset and financial plans.

“My fellow councillors and I look forward to continuing the work we embarked on this year and look forward to seeing what we can achieve in the next 12 months.”

Cr Hyslop thanked council chief executive Brent McAlister, directors and staff for their support and hard work.

“Right from the get-go, I feel council has been incredibly well-supported by Brent and all the council staff, who do such great work,” she said.

Relationships

Cr Hyslop said she was honoured to be entrusted with the role of mayor for another term.

“It’s been well-documented our next chapter has been influenced by a range of factors,

including a small population base from which to generate rate income; reduced funding opportunities from state and federal governments; and cost of living pressures," she said.

“Despite these challenges, you can rest assured we will continue to work hard to ensure Northern Grampians Shire is a wonderful place to live, work, invest and visit.”

Cr Hide said she was excited to continue her role as deputy mayor.

“Although I have been completely new to this role and many challenges have been presented, I have felt very much supported by my fellow councillors, the CEO and Northern Grampians Shire team, along with guidance from our mayor,” she said.

“Knowing I had such strong support meant I was able to dive right in, which has enabled me to achieve so much already. I look forward to the next 12 months.”

You can watch a recording of the statutory meeting via www.ngshire.vic.gov.au or a link on the Northern Grampians Shire Facebook page.

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Further details & EOI form contact Selling Agent



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Christmas Promotion Begins Tonight

Today is double dollars day, so take full advantage of this by supporting local businesses.

To complement the launch of the promotion, the annual Ladies (Progressive) Shopping Night starts at Buloke Hire/Goldy's Patch from 5.30 p.m.. At \$25 per ticket, you will receive a great night's shopping with drinks and nibbles along the way, specials from local businesses and supper at the conclusion of the evening as well as some prizes. Tickets can still be

purchased from The Clothes Bin, Loveshack Giftware, Bev's Baubles/Shared Shop and Harvest Café. They are also available on arrival at Goldy's Patch.

Participating businesses for the Ladies Shopping Night include Bev's Baubles/Shared Shop, Jasper & Co, Mensland, Donald Pharmacy, Lovesack Giftware, The Clothes Bin, Goldy's Patch. Also, with the return of Donald Hardware and newcomers Donald Convenience Shop, Op Shop and

Choose Foods. The evening will conclude at the Mt Jeffcott Hotel for supper.

Proceeds

and of course the big draw. There will be more information closer to the date.

To enter the draw, each time you spend \$20 in at a participating business, you get a stamp on your card. For example, if you spend \$60, you will get three circles stamped. Once all five circles are stamped totalling \$100, fill in the back and enter in the bins located at Mensland, Weirs, Donald Newsagency and Harvest Café.

Happy shopping!

"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.

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ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Monday, November 24, 2025 at 6.30 p.m.

East Wimmera Health Service

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EVERYONE WELCOME

Business:

- To confirm the Minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting.
- Guest speaker – Cheryl Martin, Strategic Manager (Loddon Mallee Integrated Cancer Service (LMICS) and Professor Leigh Kinsman, Chair of Rural Health Research (Latrobe University) to discuss Regional Partnerships in Cancer Service Improvements: A Focus on Skin Cancer
- To receive the Report of the Board of Directors and Audited Statements of Accounts for the year ended 30 June 2025.
- Acknowledgement of Board of Management Appointments.
- Acknowledgement of staff 20 years of service.
- Presentation of staff and volunteer awards.

To transact any other business of which at least seven (7) days' notice in writing has been given to the undersigned.

RSVP: Advise your attendance by November 10, 2025.

T: 5477 2129 or E: starnaud@ewhs.org.au

Please send questions for the AGM to the above email
address by Monday, November 17, 2025.

By Order of the Board of Directors

Trevor Adem,

Chief Executive Officer

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

In the recent art exhibition in Donald and on display at the Donald High School foyer, Year 7 Art students enjoyed exploring a variety of multimedia options.

These are some of the students whose work was in progress.

Madeline Morton
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<https://ewhs.org.au/careers>

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Inter-School Bowls at St. Arnaud



Nine students represented Donald High School at the inter-school bowls held at St. Arnaud on Wednesday, October 29.

The three Donald teams played students from Maryborough, Wycheproof, Boort, St Arnaud and Wedderburn.

At the conclusion of play, Maryborough was the victor, with Donald only four points behind.

Well done to the DHS bowlers who all tried their best and nearly won the day.



• Donald High School's bowls team. Back row, left to right: Brady Cumming, John Clapham, Jesse Lydom and Charlie Burke. Front row: Chelsea Hart, Shanae Rotherham, Jasmine Anderson, Alyssa Hepworth and Kaillie Krause.

"Times" Classifieds



Department of Health

Board director opportunities at East Wimmera Health Service

The Minister for Health, the Hon. Mary-Anne Thomas MP, is pleased to invite applications for part time board director positions at **East Wimmera Health Service**. The positions start on 1 July 2026, for up to three years.

East Wimmera Health Service is a rural health service that delivers a range of programs and services for our local communities. The Health Service has 5 campuses located in the townships of St Arnaud, Donald, Birchip, Wycheproof, and Charlton. Further information is available on our website <http://ewhs.org.au>

Directors are required to attend a monthly board meeting of approximately 2 hours duration. East Wimmera Health Service meets on the fourth Monday of the month from 4 p.m. Directors are also required to participate in board subcommittees and be available for other events requiring board representation.

These positions provide an exciting opportunity for persons with an interest in making a difference in the health sector and have the knowledge and skills for ensuring health care is delivered safely and effectively, with public money used to the benefit of all Victorians.

As a director you will be doing more than just contributing your time or knowledge. Being appointed to a hospital board places you in a position of trust. You will play an important role in providing leadership, accountability and integrity in the delivery of healthcare across Victoria.

Applicants are selected for their capabilities, including personal and professional experience, knowledge, and skills that contribute to the strategic leadership and oversight of healthcare for the Victorian community. It is preferable that applicants reside in Victoria or, within the border community of those hospitals near the New South Wales and South Australian borders.

While Victorian public health boards are based on capabilities, boards are more effective when these capabilities also represent the richness of the diverse voices of Victorian communities. We encourage First Nations people, people living with a disability, people from culturally diverse backgrounds, people who identify as LGBTQIA+, gender equality, and upholding human rights.

Applications close **at Midnight, Sunday, November 23, 2025.**

Further information about Victorian health service boards and how to apply, please go to the following website:
www.health.vic.gov.au/board-applications.

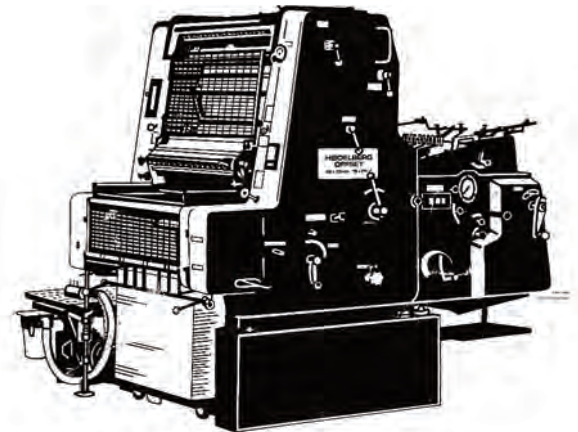


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For a Strong Finish to 2025 . . . Birchip P-12 School Ramps Up

It may seem like the year is winding down, but at Birchip P-12 School, things are anything but quiet.

The final term has been filled with energy, focus, and plenty of hard work as students and teachers push through to the end of another successful school year. The school's dedicated VCE teaching team has been going above and beyond — running extra exam preparation sessions, marking practice exams, and supporting students through every stage of revision. Their commitment hasn't gone unnoticed, and students have responded in kind, putting in the effort and focus needed to give their best in each exam.

While official VCE exams are nearing completion, students in Years 11, 10, and 9 are busy finishing assessments and gearing up for their own end-of-year exams. Birchip P-12 places strong

emphasis on preparing students early for future success, introducing exam experience from Year 9 to help them build confidence and develop effective study habits.

Excitement

But it's not all about exams — there's also excitement in the air as students prepare for important transitions. The Step-Up Program is about to begin, helping senior students move smoothly into next year's VCE classes. Meanwhile, Grade 6 students are preparing for their move to secondary school, and Birchip's youngest learners are getting ready for their own big leap: starting Prep in 2026.

Buddies

To make that transition easier, Birchip P-12 works



closely with the Birchip Early Learning Centre to give kindergarten children plenty of opportunities to visit the primary campus. The future Prep students are even paired with next year's Grade 6 buddies — a program designed to help them build confidence, make connections, and feel ready for "big school" when the time comes.

It's a busy, inspiring time at Birchip P-12 School — proof that even as the year winds down, the learning, growth, and community spirit keep running strong.



• VCE Students Eliza Gould (left) and Annabelle Bennett studying hard for their exams.

Amidst Land Grab Rush... Study Reveals Farmer Mental Health Burden

A new Federation University study has revealed farmers and communities are buckling under the mental health strain posed by energy and mining developments in the Wimmera and Southern Mallee regions.

The study was conducted between February and June 2025 and focused on seven-teen farmers and found:

- Mental health impacts are real.
- Rural solidarity is under strain.
- Farmers are losing their identity and role.
- Family connection to the land is strong.
- Farmers are proud stewards of the environment.

Stark Reminder

Victorian Farmers Federation (VFF) President Brett Hosking said the findings were a stark reminder of the hidden challenges farmers faced in the face of accelerating land use conflicts. "So often we hear about the visual impacts of these energy and mining developments, but we can't dismiss the hidden strain on communities and farmers' mental health," Mr Hosking said. "It's incredibly daunting when these huge corporations

backed by our government streamroll on to your farm and wave a compulsory access notice at you, threatening to remove your most valuable resource, without first taking the time to talk. "Tragically an Australian farmer dies by suicide every 10 days. That's more than twice the rate of other working- ing Australians. "This independent academic assessment confirms what communities and the VFF have been saying. It should sound alarm bells that this crash, or crash through, approach is having deep human and community impacts."

Solutions

Despite the enormous issues highlighted in the study, it found potential solutions to reduce the stress on farmers and the local community, including:

- Validate emotional responses and prioritise community.

- Strengthen legislative and policy protections for agriculture and farmer well-being.
- Improve confidence and security around decommissioning and rehabilitation.
- Inclusion of agricultural and socio-cultural impacts in future planning processes.
- Introduce geographic and cumulative impact analysis into project assessment.
- Community benefits need community.

"So much tragedy and stress could be avoided if the process was flipped on its head and the community and farmers were genuinely consulted from the beginning.

"We need to urgently increase mental health services in these communities to provide much-needed support," Mr Hosking said.

"These companies and our government can still do that, it's not too late."

If you or anyone you know needs help: Lifeline on 13 11 14; ifarmwell at <https://ifarmwell.com.au/farmer-friendly-mental-health-resources>; Farmer Health Support Hub at <https://farmer-health.org.au/support-hub>; Kids Helpline on 1800 551 800; Beyond Blue on 1300 224 636; Suicide Call Back Service on 1300 659 467; Headspace on 1800 650 890; ReachOut at au.reachout.com; MensLine Australia on 1300 789 978; Care Leavers Australasia Network (CLAN) on 1800 008 774; Head to Health at headtohealth.gov.au; Sober in the Country at www.soberinthecountry.org.

Community Voices Shape Wycheproof's Future

(From Wyche Alive)

Wycheproof Community group Wyche Alive Inc. hosted a well-attended and forthright public meeting on October 30 in the Wycheproof Hall Supper Room, sparking strategic discussion on the town's future direction, aspirations, and shared challenges.

The forum brought together representatives from key local organisations, including Alex Morrison (Wycheproof Lions Club), Cr Stephen Barratt (Buloke Shire Council), Marney Durie (Wycheproof Community Resource Centre), and Brad Robinson (East Wimmera Health Service – Wycheproof Campus Manager).

Each speaker offered unique insights from their sectors, prompting lively and constructive conversation around growth opportunities, essential services, and the evolving role of East Wimmera Health Service (EWHS) in supporting community wellbeing.

Alex Morrison, from the Wycheproof Lions Club, said it was inspiring to see so many voices come together, exploring growth opportunities

while tackling challenges with optimism.

Key Focus

A key issue raised during the session was the shortage of appropriately priced and well-appointed housing for essential workers — including police officers, nursing staff, teachers, and shire employees — a challenge impacting workforce attraction and retention.

Mr Robinson outlined potential improvements for short-term staff accommodation at the Wycheproof campus, noting that while health services prioritise quality care and health promotion, they often lack the resources to provide housing for their workforce.

Buloke Shire Council and other local organisations echoed similar challenges. Attendees

agreed that access to affordable, ready-to-occupy housing would help attract and retain professionals within the community.

Brad Robinson, EWHS Wycheproof Campus Manager, said affordable, ready-to-occupy housing is key to attracting the essential workforce the town needs to thrive.

Aged Care Reforms

Mr Robinson also outlined the introduction of new Aged Care Standards, coming into effect on November 1, 2025, and discussed the positive impact these reforms will have on Wycheproof's ageing population.

Attendees welcomed the focus on person-centred care and the opportunities to keep residents at Grandview Lodge connected to the wider community.

Continuing the Conversation

While no immediate solutions were finalised, participants agreed that Wyche Alive Inc. will reconvene in the coming months to continue exploring ideas and collaborative initiatives.

Attendees extended thanks to Mr Robinson for his time, insights, and commitment, acknowledging shared opportunities and challenges approached with optimism for Wycheproof's future.

Wyche Alive Inc. President, Martin Duke, said the organisation is about sparking conversation, sharing ideas, and ensuring Wycheproof remains a vibrant and sustainable community.

Wyche Alive Inc. remains committed to fostering collaboration among community groups to ensure Wycheproof continues to thrive as a vibrant, sustainable place to live, work, and connect.



• Brad Robinson (left), newly appointed EWHS Wycheproof Campus Manager, is thanked for his valuable insights and contribution, highlighting the spirit of collaboration within the community, during the recent Public Meeting by Wyche Alive Inc. President Martin Duke.

CHURCH NOTICES


**GRANITE
Community Church**
www.granitecommunitychurch.com
At Granite Church
Baptist Union of Victoria

**ANGLICAN
"Parish of
Charlton-Donald"**
*Enquiries: Rev'd Judi Bird
0435 593 395*
Friday, November 14
St. Paul's, Birchip, 5 p.m.
Sunday, November 16
St. Martin's, Charlton, 9 a.m.
St. George's, Donald, 11 a.m.
Holy Trinity, W'burn, 3 p.m.

President Reviews History Society's Year

After another busy year, the Donald History Society held its annual meeting at the Courthouse Museum on Monday, November 10.

Re-elected to executive positions were president Ann Dunstan, secretary Brian Brasier and treasurer Harold Flett.

Prepared for her ninth year in the chair, Ann was pleased to present the following 2024-'25 report.

In December members of the Meyer family travelled to Donald for our annual luncheon held at the Jeffcott Hotel. Guest speaker Vivienne

Davidson, spoke on the role her ancestors, Johann August Meyer and his wife Charlotte played in the development of the Donald Township. Following lunch an information board erected at the front of the Courthouse Museum telling the story of these pioneers was unveiled by descendant, John Meyer. His generous donation allowed us to erect both this board and another at the memorial cairn

located at the site of the Meyer's original "shanty".

Speakers

Guest speakers for 2025 included: Dougal McAlister, Regenerative Agriculture, a conservation and rehabilitation approach to food and farming; Isabelle Flett, the history of St. Andrew's Church in Woods Street; Rhonda Russell, the life of her father George Wood; Beryl Milne the history of the Fairmark shirt factory; John Kumm, the importance of the Men's Shed in the community; Jenny Campbell, the history of community gardens and the establishment of Donald's community garden, and Anne Walsh, 100 Years of the Litchfield Hall.

Watchem Workshop

Following on from stonemason, Jim Petrie's talk last year we visited his workshop in Watchem, where he demonstrated on a block of stone he is shaping into a sphere. After a meeting and afternoon tea at the Watchem Hall, we visited the old Watchem Bowling Club where the Watchem Progress committee plans to organize a museum. They have already gathered many items relating to the history of the town and surrounding district.

We have invited them to visit our Archives, Courthouse Museum, Agricultural Museum and Old Police Camp.

Cemetery History

Along with the Swanwater West Cemetery Trust we hosted a barbeque, tour of the

cemetery and afternoon tea at the Donald Courthouse Museum. The event titled "Digging up the Past" celebrated the cemetery's history and showcased work recently completed by the Trust.

A lot of work has gone into cataloging and organizing displays in the museum this year. During History Month, the museum was opened every Friday during October from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The Georgie Ah Ling, Donald's market gardener, collection being a feature.

Representatives from our Society attended the Western Victorian Association of Historical Societies (WVAHS) Annual General meeting and Zone meeting in Geelong in April and the Midlands Zone meeting at Pyramid Hill in September.

This year the Archives had some overdue painting and renovations done. Thank you to everyone, especially our latest volunteer, Lynette, who helped with the mammoth task of shifting and reinstating the contents.

Younger Members Welcome

As all of our members are well past retirement age it would be most appreciated if some of the younger members of the community could spare an hour every now and then to help us with the running of the Society and the preservation of the district's valuable history.

The Archives are open Tuesday and Friday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Wednesday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. or we can be contacted by email at donaldhistorysociety@gmail.com

"Times" Crossword

QUICK PUZZLE NO. 8201 - SOLUTIONS

Across - 6, Aspidistra. 8, Veal. 9, Keen. 10, Loose. 11, Noon. 12, Stockpile. 16, Physician. 20, Thug. 22, Razor. 23, Orgy. 24, Area. 25, Portuguese.
Down - 1, Aspect. 2, Pinnacle. 3, Phillip. 4, Stroll. 5, Haven. 7, Capon. 13, Ivy. 14, Octopus. 15, Chart. 17, Hazard. 18, Sprout. 19, August. 21, Grape.

Penni Graduates

On September 15, 2025, Penni Newsome graduated from Deakin University with a bachelor of Early Childhood Education, with distinction.

Penni has been with the same early childhood education centre in Doncaster East since 2006, holding many roles, and commenced as Centre Director at the start of the year.

Penny was educated at Donald Primary and High schools, and is the youngest daughter of proud parents Marlene and the late Graeme Davidson.



• Penni Newsome, daughter of the late Graeme Davidson, and his wife Marlene.

- 1G Building
Ag Hydraulics
Ag Plus Grain Services
Artie's Home Maintenance
Australian Eatwell
B & G Bulk Haulage
BB Harvesting
Bev's Baubles/Shared Shop
Bowles Mowing and Maintenance
Buloke Hire
Buloke Plumbing
Buloke Times
Burke Painting Group
Choose Food
Caroan Landscaping
DCIRS Community Care
Donald and District Community Bank
Donald Auto Electrical
Donald Convenience Store
Donald Dumplings
Donald Family Butchers
Donald Family Clinic
Donald Hardware

Donald Hotel
Donald IGA
Donald Learning Group
Donald Lion's Club
Donald Newsagency Emporium
Donald Pharmacy
Donald Post Office
Donald Riverside Motel
Donald Steel
Donald Tyre and Exhaust Centre
Eddie Harris Mensland
Elders Insurance
Gilchrist & Co
Goldy's Patch
Goodwin Village
Harvest Cafe
Holmes Brown Flooring and Coverings
Industry and Co
Jasper & Co
JT Onsite Welding and Construction
Kell's Funerals
Landwehr Electrical

Leeder Carpentry
Leeder Mechanical Services
Leigh Nunn Building
Liston Newton Advisory
Look First Op Shop
Loveshack Giftware
Michaels of Donald
Midwest Plumbing and Appliances
Mount Jeffcott Hotel
North West Real Estate
Nutrien Donald
Nutrien Harcourt's Real Estate
Pea Foods
Perry Contracting
QA Electrical
Regional Wholesalers
S&R Sweet Treats
SA Coffee & Co
SMD Automotive
Spud's Cafe
STS Mechanical
The Clothes Bin
Wellness in Laen

Receive 5 x \$20 stamps to enter the draw



Drawn Sunday 14th December
@ Town Christmas Party
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Available from all district newsagents, or direct from the "Times" Offices, Donald or Birchip; or ring the Donald office (5497 1222) to arrange email or postal delivery.

Endangered Birds’ Future? – You Can Bank On It!

Threatened wildlife like the critically endangered South-east Red-tailed Black-cockatoo have a bright future thanks to a renewed conservation partnership with Bank Australia in the Wimmera.

Conservation organisation Trust for Nature is partnering with Bank Australia to manage the bank’s 2,117 hectare conservation reserve on Wotjobaluk Country in Western Victoria.

The conservation reserve is a group of four properties – Salvana, Minimay, Boorooopki, and Ozenkadanook – with the majority of the reserve

protected from development forever with a conservation covenant through Trust for Nature.

“We’re thrilled to be continuing our partnership with Bank Australia to care for this incredibly important habitat,” said Amelia Houghton, Director, Regional Delivery at Trust for Nature.

“We look forward to continuing to strengthen partnerships with First Peoples and supporting their aspirations for Country,” Amelia said.

“We’re proudly the first bank in Australia to have a conservation reserve, which is home to both many native plant and native animal species. It’s one of the ways we’re using the business of banking to create a healthier planet,” said Head of Impact Management, Jane Kern.

“Our partnership with Trust for Nature ensures that the reserve continues to be a thriving and collaborative example of science-based conservation in action,” Jane said.

Bank Australia has been caring for and growing the conservation reserve since 2008.

The conservation reserve protects woodlands and heathlands, including critically endangered Bulokes and Desert Stringybarks, which are the only food source for the black-cockatoos.

Other threatened species found on the reserve include the Diamond Firetail, Fiery Jewell Butterfly, and Coloured Spider-orchid. Over 280 species of animals have been recorded on the reserve, a number that is increasing as the bank restores the properties.



• Trust for Nature staff on the Bank Australia conservation reserve.

Located around Little Desert National Park, the reserve helps connect habitat across the landscape and create corridors for wildlife to move.

Trust for Nature has supported Bank Australia to improve habitat on the reserve, including weed and rabbit control, habitat monitoring, installing nest boxes and revegetation.

Trust for Nature is one of Australia’s oldest conservation organisations, established to protect habitat on private land. It relies on the generosity of supporters to help protect Victoria’s biodiversity.

About Bank Australia

Bank Australia Ltd believes banking can be a force for good and together we can have a positive impact on our customers, communities and the planet.

Following its merger with Qudos Mutual Ltd on July 1, 2025, Bank Australia Ltd continues to operate the Bank Australia and Qudos Bank retail brands.

It is 100% customer-owned and aims to build on its position as Australia’s leading purpose-driven bank. Bank Australia’s commitment to clean money means the focus is on lending and investments in areas that do good, not harm, for people and the planet. It supports almost 300,000 customers and is the custodian of more than \$18 billion in assets.

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- For being there for the kids, and their kids.
- For getting control of your life back.

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A partnership between:





• Hadley Harrison showing off her 43 cm Yellow Belly.



• Admiring her work before the caught fish is returned.

Junior Fishing Competition

Donald Angling Club held its annual junior fishing competition on Saturday, October 8, at the Donald Caravan Park Lake.

Twenty-three budding anglers attended on a cool and very windy morning, trying to catch the ultimate prize of the longest fish. Only two fish were landed in the competition hours of 9 a.m. to 12 noon.

Results: Junior girl, Hadley Harrison caught and released a

43 cm Yellow Belly. Junior boy, Tarvey Gilmour caught and released a 42 cm Silver Perch.

Lucky Rod prizes went to Toby Nunn, Denna Gilmour, Millie Pearce, Parker Pearce, Mason Pearce, Harry Atkin, Lorelei Francis, Marlie Adams, Ellie Adams and Maggie Merlino.

The competition organisers would like to thank the parents and children for attending to support the Angling Club and hope to see you next year. Special thanks to the DAC members for helping with the barbecue lunch after the comp.



• A close up of the Silver Perch that won the Junior boys side of the competition.



• Tarvey Gilmour next to his 42 cm Silver Perch.

Haystack Fires – a Real Threat

Victorian farmers are reminded of the dangers of high moisture content in hay as they begin cutting, baling and storing it to beat the persistent rain.

Large areas of Victoria have experienced heavy rain-fall in recent weeks, and some communities have seen major flooding, which will have an impact on the moisture levels of crops and fodder.

These wet conditions present a risk for farmers trying to prepare their hay while the sun shines to beat the next bout of predicted rainfall.

If hay producers do not allow adequate time for grass and crops to dry out before baling, it can present a high risk for spontaneous combustion.

If hay has not properly dried out or has been exposed to rain or damp conditions, the moisture content in the bales may be higher than the recommended levels, leading to elevated risk of haystack fires.

It is also important to consider the storage of hay, as significant rain to exposed haystacks are at risk from spontaneous ignition.

This can be better managed by storing undercover or using hay caps or tarps to restrict rain getting into bales.

Spontaneous Combustion

CFA District 02 Assistant Chief Fire Officer (ACFO) Archie Conroy said if hay is baled with high moisture content, it can heat up like compost, which can lead to spontaneous combustion weeks or months later.

“Farmers who have decided to carry on with hay production need to be extra vigilant this year to make sure conditions are right for making hay and for the future storage and transport of the product as well,” he said.

“Hay fires are a real threat to properties and stock in farmland areas.

“Whether you’re a seasoned hay grower or switching to hay this year, it’s really important to take care of your hay and crops this fire season.”

CFA attends dozens of haystack fires each year. Haystack fires can also start easily from lightning strikes or sparks from equipment.

Regular Monitoring

“You should regularly monitor your haystacks by using a temperature probe or a crowbar to detect heating hay.”

Signs of heating hay can include steam rising from the stack or unusual odours like burning, must, pipe tobacco smell or a caramel smell.

“By being vigilant, you’re protecting yourself from the financial impact of losing valuable fodder and protecting your property and family from the potential danger of hay fires.”

Haystack Tips

- It is important to ensure hay is well cured before baling.

- Know the history of the hay you purchase.

- Keep haystacks to a limited size and separate your haystacks.

- Monitor moisture and temperature of your hay regularly.

- Watch for unusual odours such as pipe tobacco, caramel, burning or musty smells.

- Store hay in separate stacks or sheds away from farm equipment and other buildings.

- Keep your hay dry. Protect it from rain, leaking roofs or spouts, and runoff. Cover stacks with tarps or hay caps.

- Don’t stack hay right to the top of a hay shed. Allow some air to circulate at the top – this helps to carry away moisture.

Temperature Guide

What to do when your hay is overheating:

- Use a thermometer in a probe or insert a crowbar into the middle of the stack for 2 hours.

- Less than 50°C. Can handle the crowbar without discomfort.

Check temperature daily:

- 50°C – 60°C. Can only handle crowbar for short time

Check temperature twice daily:

- 60°C – 70°C. Can touch bar only briefly.

Check temperature every 2 to 4 hours. Move hay to improve air flow:

- Over 70 °C. Bar is too hot to hold.

Potential for fire. Call 000 immediately. Avoid walking on top of haystack. At this stage pulling apart the hay may provide the oxygen it needs to ignite.

For more information please visit: www.cfa.vic.gov.au/plan-prepare/hay-and-fire-safety

The Buloke Times

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.



Haystack fires can spread quickly into the surrounding area and often result in thousands of dollars of damages.



Wyche Men's Shed Elects Officers

The Wycheproof Men's Shed recently held its Annual General Meeting.

The election of office bearers was ably undertaken by David Pollard, who then kindly continued to chair the rest of the meeting.

It resulted in the following positions being filled: President, Tony Franze; secretary, Martin Duke; treasurer, Will Russ; assistant treasurer, Russell Bedggood; and the other committee members being John Driscoll, Rob Grylls and Allan Wallace.

At the 2025 AGM it was decided to keep the annual membership fee the same as the previous year, as well as the daily attendance contribution. This is a great confirmation

that the Shed's financial situation has been carefully managed back to a very positive situation. This is a turnaround from a few years ago when the books were a bit in the red.

The Men's Shed has now embarked on a program of tidying up and re-arranging the Shed, and making the whole area more presentable and welcoming.

Members continue to enjoy the camaraderie of their fellow members, and the ability to create and repair items at the Shed in a friendly atmosphere under great tutorage, when necessary.



• Left to right: Rob Grylls, Martin Duke, Tony Franze, Russell Bedggood, Will Russ, John Driscoll, Allan Wallace.

Truckloads of Protection on the Way

CFA has purchased truckloads of tankers to ensure it is stocked up ahead of the manufacturer discontinuation of the model.

The 50 cab chassis are lined up in CFA's State Logistics Centre, where they will be sent off in small batches to a local specialist body manufacturer Bell Environmental, to be turned into Light Tankers.

CFA's Head of Fleet and Protective Equipment Dan Jones said we expect the process of the build into firetrucks for each tanker to take around six months, with the rollout to brigades to start in mid-2026.

"These light tankers will come equipped with the latest safety features and new fire-fighting equipment," Dan said.

"They're a low-profile emergency response vehicle with 4x4 maneuverability which assists with navigating through busy urban streets or rugged rural terrain.

Capacity

"It's also lightweight with the capacity to hold 2,000 litres of water, so they're a

vital asset to our firefighting fleet.

"It was important to ensure we had the stock so we can continue delivering these vital firefighting vehicles to our brigades across the state over the next couple of years."

The first seven of these new Light Tankers will be delivered next year to Echuca Village, Ellerslie, Greendale, Kingston, Bulart, Corinella and Jamieson brigades.

All seven brigades helped fund those trucks through local community donations and funding grants through the 2024/25 Volunteer Emergency Services Equipment Program (VESEP).

Radio Replacement

Just in time for the upcoming fire season, CFA is also celebrating the completion of its Radio Replacement Program.

As one of the biggest investments ever made to CFA, the \$138 million dollar program saw the delivery of

18,000 devices across the state, including all mobile and portable devices, bag radios and local bases.

CFA Chief Officer Jason Heffernan said the new radios include additional functionality for CFA including GPS on the portable radios and multi-band capability to allow direct communication with partner agencies.

"The new radios have great coverage and improved capability in buildings and structures," Jason said.

"Our volunteers have reported that the new radios have provided a significant uplift in the way they have been able to communicate with each other, and other emergency services, both in Victoria and border areas with interstate fire services.

"It's great to see this project come to fruition and I know they'll be valuable pieces of equipment for many years."



• Scoresby 1st Lt Dean Walker, CFA Program Director ICT Communications Shane Peacock, CFA Board member Peter Shaw, CFA Chief Officer Jason Heffernan, Scoresby volunteer Daniel Smith, CFA General Manager Infrastructure and Environmental Services Paul Santamaria, Scoresby 2nd Lt Kristian Schouten, South Warrandyte volunteer Maddisen Brown.

Local Government's Financial Sustainability: Coalition Attacks Lack of Urgency

The Coalition has attacked the lack of urgency in addressing financial sustainability for Australia's 537 local governments, as the Albanese Labor government quietly reinstated a sustainability inquiry – something the Coalition has been calling for since early June.

Shadow Minister for Local Government Dr Anne Webster, MP, told the Australian Local Government Association national conference in June that her first action as Shadow Minister was to call for the Albanese Labor Government to reinstate the stalled Standing Committee on Regional Development, Infrastructure and Transport inquiry on local government sustainability.

"It's now been 19 months since Minister Catherine King said local government sustainability issues were 'pressing', and Labor has finally resumed the inquiry with submissions closing next February," Dr Webster said.

"The Committee's interim report in February 2025 had zero interim recommendations, and the new submission

timeline means there's no likelihood the Albanese Government will fund relief for councils in May's 2026/7 budget – or even the 2027/8 budget at the pace they're setting.

"The Coalition-era Local Roads and Community Infrastructure program is incredibly popular with councils, giving untied, unmatched funding to shires to spend on their infrastructure needs. LRCI runs out of funding on June 30, yet Labor is happy to starve the local government of the means to fix potholes, make roads safer and improve other community infrastructure.

"Instead, right now Labor has the gall to propose slashing default regional speed limits from 100 kilometres per hour to as low as 70 kilometres per hour, crushing



• Anne Webster.

regional productivity, increasing the risk of driver fatigue and making daily country life more difficult."

The Sustainability Inquiry during the 47th Parliament received 287 submissions and had 15 days of public hearings, including in West Perth, Launceston, Wallan, Cairns and Beaudesert.



• These lightweight tankers come equipped with the latest safety features as well as 4x4 manoeuvrability, a fantastic feature for navigating rugged rural terrain.



In last year’s Bet365 Donald Cup, it was a very easy win for Chartres, ridden by Tom Madden and trained by Matt Laurie.

Donald Racing Fields

1. DONALD & DISTRICT COMMUNITY BANK 3YO MAIDEN PLTE				
3-Y-O. Mdn. Set Weights				
1350 Metres \$42,500 1.22 p.m.				
1	Durham (Paul Preusker)	J D Hill	10	58.0
2	Measure Of Time (Mark Walker)	Ms L Meech	3	58.0
3	Shefflin (Patrick & Michelle Payne)	W Gordon	1	58.0
4	Cristaria (Ciaron Maher)	E J Walsh	7	56.0
5	Grand Millesime (Ben, Will & JD Hayes)	H T Coffey	8	56.0
6	Light Filled (Robert Hickmott)	D Bates	5	56.0
7	Paycheck (Paul Preusker)	Ms C Puls	2	56.0
8	Queen Of The Surf (Simon Zahra)	R K Houston(a0)	4	56.0
9	Star Of Rossa (Matthew Williams)	N Farley	6	56.0
10	Well Hallo (Ben, Will & JD Hayes)	D Yendall	9	56.0

2. WEIR’S IGA DONALD 4YO+ MAIDEN PLTE				
4-Y-O & Up. Mdn. Set Weights				
1350 Metres \$55,000 1.57 p.m.				
1	Analytical (Matt Cumani)	E J Walsh	1	59.5
2	I Am Titan (Tim Eurell)	N Farley	5	59.5
3	Jotopeli (Symon Wilde)	D Yendall	8	59.5
4	Moral Turpitude (Erin Maher)	R McLeod	3	59.5
5	Adamana (Andrew Noblet)	D Bates	4	57.5
6	Cheers To Us (Jane Duncan)	Ms C A Taylor	6	57.5
7	Cliste (NZ) (Andrew Bobbin)	J D Hill	11	57.5
8	Colandcarmel (Ben O’Farrell)	T Madden	14	57.5
9	Crackerjack Hatch (Andrew Bobbin)	H T Coffey	2	57.5
10	Dejavast (Lee Hunter)	Ms T Childs	10	57.5
11	French Love (Anne Blackburn)	S H Pang(a2)	9	57.5
12	Kanobba (Sean Mott)	Ms C L Jokic	7	57.5
13	Moley Belle (John Tarin)	T C Doyle	13	57.5
14	Say It How It Is (Rachel Samsonenko)	J Fry	12	57.5

3. GOODWIN VILLAGE DONALD MAIDEN PLATE				
3-Y-O & Up. Mdn. Set Weights				
2200 Metres \$42,500 2.32 p.m.				
1	Bernie Beel (Allan Peterson)	Ms M K Julius	8	59.5
2	Makhanda (Rod Symons)	E J Walsh	4	59.5
3	Plastic Dreams (Jarrod Robinson)	Ms C L Jokic	10	59.5
4	Sir Isaac (Stephen Lenehan)	T C Doyle	1	59.5
5	Tavolta (NZ) (Stephen Lenehan)	C MacRedmond	7	59.5
6	True Test (NZ) (Paul Preusker)	D Bates	13	59.5
7	Bush Etiquette (Tony & Calvin McEvoy)	H T Coffey	9	58.0
8	Discobay (Adrian McGregor)	Ms L Meech	6	57.5
9	Falling Sun (Ciaron Maher)	J D Hill	5	57.5
10	Limosa (NZ) (Maddie Raymond & Patrick Bell)	H Grace	3	57.5
11	Miss Solar Hart (Helen Burns)	Ms J M Smith(a3)	2	57.5
12	Ocean Impulse (NZ) (Paul Preusker)	Ms C Puls	12	57.5
13	Streamelot (IRE) (Andrew Bobbin)	W Gordon	11	57.5

4. CHS BROADBENT BM66 HANDICAP				
3-Y-O & Up. BM66.				
2200 Metres \$35,000 3.07 p.m.				
1	Autumnheat (Matt Cumani)	E J Walsh	10	61.5
2	Black Peppermint (Patrick & Michelle Payne)		4	61.0
3	Tsitsipas (NZ) (Trent Busuttin & Natalie Young)	D Yendall	6	60.0
4	Deemee (NZ) (Symon Wilde)	R J Hurdle	3	58.5
5	Star Testimony (Symon Wilde)	L J Grace	11	58.5
6	Straand Deal (Lloyd Kennewell)	Ms L Meech	1	58.5
7	Larsen Bay (Patrick Kearney)	R McLeod	5	57.5
8	Digari (Andrew Bobbin)	H T Coffey	7	57.0
9	Ripper (NZ) (Paul Preusker)	J D Hill	13	57.0
10	Bellakai (Helen Burns)	Ms C A Taylor	9	56.5
11	Legacy Rose (Patrick Kearney)	J Fry	12	56.5
12	Ongatiti (NZ) (Ciaron Maher)	D Bates	2	56.5
13	Sawbay (NZ) (Henry Dwyer)	N Farley	14	54.5
14e	Whisky Moon (Alex Rae)		8	56.5

Ballots: Garnacho (NZ)

5. GILCHRIST & CO BM70 HANDICAP				
3-Y-O & Up. BM70.				
1350 Metres \$40,000 3.42 p.m.				
1	Willmott (Archie Alexander)	D Bates	7	61.5
2	Ten Commandments (Paul Preusker)	W Gordon	11	60.0
3	Roussillon (Dan Cunningham)		9	58.5
4	Flying Fizz (Matthew Williams)	D Yendall	10	58.0
5	Mere Morsel (NZ) (Symon Wilde)	H T Coffey	6	57.5
6	Billie Bronx (Tom Dabernig)	Ms L Meech	8	56.5
7	Geffina (Aaron Purcell)	T Madden	1	56.5
8	Divine Thoughts (T. & C. McEvoy)	C. MacRedmond	5	56.0
9	Weather Delay (Robert Hickmott)	R J Hurdle	2	56.0
10	Alternate (Stacey Kirkpatrick)	Ms C Puls	3	54.5
11	Solar Mist (Con Kelly)	N Farley	4	54.0

6. BET365 DONALD CUP				
No Claims.				
1620 Metres \$80,000 4.20 PM				
1	Beltoro (Robert Hickmott)	R J Hurdle	4	59.0
2	Rhinoceros (NZ) (Emma-Lee & David Browne)	D Yendall	11	59.0
3	New York Hurricane (Liam Howley)	Ms DE Munro(a0)	6	56.5
4	Ocean Beyond (NZ) (Simon Ryan)	J D Hill	14	56.0
5	Crafty Boss (Geoff Withers)	Ms A K Kelly	2	54.5
6	Dark Journey (Jason Warren)	H T Coffey	3	54.5
7	Lightning Express (Aaron Purcell)	T Madden	12	54.5
8	Prince Eric (IRE) (Archie Alexander)	D Bates	7	54.5
9	Maktoob (GB) (Simon Zahra)	R K Houston(a0)	13	54.0
10	Surprise Coming (Mick Huxtable)	Ms L Meech	1	54.0
11	Kokonotsu (Thomas Carberry)	N Farley	9	54.0
12	Albanian I Am (Paul Koumis)		8	54.0
13	Bell's Bighouse (John Rowe)	Ms M K Julius	10	54.0
14	Owl Witness (Con Kelly)	Ms A K Kelly	5	54.0

7. MALLEE LANDSCAPES BM66 HANDICAP				
3-Y-O & Up. BM66.				
1620 Metres \$35,000 5.00 p.m.				
1	Baby Rider (FR) (Helen Burns)		4	61.5
2	Tyndrum Gold (GB) (Brett Charry)	Ms A K Kelly	8	61.0
3	Mister Businessman (Matthew Williams)	D Yendall	10	60.5
4	Maximilian Caesar (IRE) (Andrew Bobbin)	W Gordon	13	59.5
5	Powerbound (Patrick Kearney)	R McLeod	11	59.5
6	Male Model (John Thom)	C Atkinson	3	59.0
7	Thunder Point (Symon Wilde)	H T Coffey	7	59.0
8	Van Roy (Aaron Purcell)	T Madden	12	58.5
9	Chairman (NZ) (Paul Preusker)	J D Hill	6	58.0
10	Frozen Tide (Shane Fliedner)	E J Walsh	5	58.0
11	Flux (Rodney Foster)	H Grace	1	57.0
12	Ahab (NZ) (Ann-Jeanette Tindale)	Ms S Field(a1.5)	9	56.5
13	Shal Exceed (Con Kelly)	N Farley	2	56.5

8. LEADING TEAMS BM66 HANDICAP				
3-Y-O & Up. BM66.				
1200 Metres \$35,000 5.40 p.m.				
1	Prinzerro (Phillip Stokes)	R McLeod	6	60.5
2	Thunder Park (Simon Gebert)	Ms A K Kelly	3	60.0
3	Shamateur (Shane Fliedner)	E J Walsh	2	59.0
4	Steel Move (Tony & Calvin McEvoy)	H T Coffey	15	58.5
5	Terraflying (Ben, Will & JD Hayes)	R J Hurdle	13	58.5
6	He's Godspeed (Daniel Bowman)	C MacRedmond	4	58.0
7	Jammin Jimmy (Mitchell Freedman)	D Yendall	1	58.0
8	Thunder Award (Lloyd Kennewell)	Ms L Meech	12	58.0
9	Fluent (Andrew Noblet)	D Bates	11	57.5
10	Bakersbend (Paul Preusker)	W Gordon	5	57.0
11	Flux (Rodney Foster)	N Farley	14	57.0
12	Brenlyn's Trooper (Nathan Hobson)	J Fry	9	56.5
13	Star Compass (Aaron Purcell)	J D Hill	10	56.5
14	Turn Up The Night (NZ) (B. & A. McKnight)	Ms C Puls	8	56.0
15e	Masked Marauder (Tom Dabernig)		7	58.0

TOTAL ENTRIES: 104

Beltoro to Win Donald Cup

(By Peter Hibberd)

This Sunday at the Donald racing centre, the Donald and District Race Club will run its premier meeting of the year, featuring the Bet365 Donald Cup to the value of \$80K. Including the cup prize money, a total of \$365K is to be shared amongst the winning owners.

The racing will take centre stange on the day, but it’s the stage in front of the complex where all eyes will be through the afternoon, with Fashions on the Field categories: Lady of the Day, runner-up Lady of the Day, Mature Lady of the Day, Millinery of the Day, Miss Teen, Gentleman of the Day, Little Miss and Little Mister.

The club again has provided many package deals which patrons have taken advantage of, such as marquees, umbrellas and views (including dining) packages.

Sponsors on the Day
Without sponsors many clubs would struggle. Here is the list of Donald Cup Day sponsors: Bet365, Weir’s IGA Donald, Goodwin Village, CHS Broadbent, Donald and District Community Bank, Gilchrist and Co, Mallee Landscapes, Leading Teams.

Looking for a Winner?
On a very good 8-race program, the first race jumps at 1.22 p.m., with all the big fields, there should be plenty of value for punters.

In race two, Jotopeli has shown a lot of potential in its starts and has been well supported in all runs.

My best for the day are in the last two races, Mister Businessman has good form, especially from its last race at Geelong. In the last, Steel Move from the McEvoy stable and to be ridden by

Harry Coffey, has drawn wide, but was a big run last start at Bendigo.

The most interesting runner of the day in the first race, Measure of Time, is having its first start in a race, but has won a trial at Caulfield.

The Cup is a very competitive race with many chances. Beltoro is my selection, but the interesting runner is Surprise Coming, from South “Oz”, which has drawn barrier one and will be ridden by Linda Meech; however, the winner could be well hidden.

Selections
Race one: Measure of Time, Grand Millesime, Durham.
Race two: Jotopeli, Analytical, A Damana.
Race three: Bush Etiquette, Limosa, Makhanda.
Race four: Ongatti, Straand Deal, Autumn Heat.
Race five: Willmott, Weather Delay, Mere Morsel.
Race six: Beltora, Surprise Coming, Dark Journey.
Race seven: Mister Businessman, Powerbound, Thunder Point.
Race eight: Steel Move, Thunder Award, Star Compass.
Best bets: Jotopeli, Mister Businessman, Steel Move.

Previous Cup Winners
2021 Portland Jimmy
2022 Glassey Miss
2023 Mister Me
2024 Chartres
2025 ???



• With support from the Department of Sport, a weekly session has been happening on Wednesdays starting at 8:45 a.m..

Charlton Welcomes Pickleball

The Charlton Community is excited with having access to facilities at Charlton College to get involved with one of the hottest sports going around: Pickleball.

For the uninitiated, Pickleball is a racquet or paddle sport in which two or four players use a smooth-faced paddle to hit a perforated, hollow plastic ball over a 34-inch-high (0.86 m) net, until one side cannot return the ball or commits a rule infraction.

Pickleball is played indoors and outdoors.

With terrific support from the Department of Sport and Recreation, Buloke Shire and Mallee Sports Assembly, residents meet weekly on a Wednesday morning at 8:45 a.m. for a session that usually lasts for around an hour. Playing Pickleball offers numerous health benefits, including improved cardiovascular health, enhanced muscle strength, better balance, and increased social interaction.

Interested in finding our more? Contact the Charlton Neighbourhood House today for information, and to join in this fun activity.

Mixed Fortunes for Donald and Birchip

For the second time in two weeks, the two Birchip tennis sides were pitted against the two Donald sides, albeit this time it was Richardson playing Wirrim and Avon playing Birchip at Donald.

• The NCLTA ladder after Round 5 is as follows:

	Played	Total pts	Games For	Games Against	%
Kara Kara	5	38	691	514	134.44%
Nullawil	5	34	575	489	117.59%
Richardson	4	26	404	384	105.21%
Birchip	5	24	592	544	108.82%
Avon	5	24	503	595	84.54%
St Arnaud	4	23	550	430	127.91%
Charlton	4	17	414	472	87.71%
Wirrim	4	12	371	439	84.51%
Wycheproof	4	2	286	519	55.11%

Mid-Week Bowling

Donald’s Lindy Morgan, “Acky” Adamson, Marion McEwen and Alison McEwen had a great win over St. Arnaud’s Laurence Goodwin and team, 40 to 14.

Thanks to Lindy’s team it gave Donald a big boost overall to gain 6 points plus 2. Donald 8 St. Arnaud 4.

Marg Quick and side struggled all day losing 32-21. Beryl Milne, Ev Adams, Joan Wood, and Kay Wyllie. Beryl and Kay (still in form from Friday’s state 4s) had a good tussle against consistent Phil McCrae, Marie Hufer, Terry McSwain and Andrea Tyler. Eventually losing 20-27.

Trials

Congratulations to Lindy Morgan and Hunter Wingfield from North Central in the trials at Coughlin Park on Sunday. If selected they will be part of four teams to represent Wimmera at Ballarat.

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Wind Whistles While Bowlers Battle

In almost identical weather conditions to those experienced by their weekend counterparts, North Central Playing Area’s midweek pennant players had to contend with strong and blustery wind when competition resumed with round 5 on Tuesday, after the previous weekend’s Melbourne Cup Day break.

Donald Golf, Charlton and Wycheproof recorded victories over St. Arnaud Country Club, Wedderburn and Boort respectively to occupy the top three positions on the ladder.

Donald Golf overwhelmed the visiting St. Arnaud Country Club by 35 shots, picking up 11 points to 1 after Stewart Hollis defeated Rhonda Pole and Peter Hibberd outlasted a soild comeback from Amanda Marland’s combo.

Shane O’Shea’s lot had to settle for a draw against Heather Esmore’s team, which picked up two shots on the final end of a close contest throughout.

Charlton relished the opportunity to take on Wedderburn on its home green and emerged with three wins, by a combined margin of 14 shots and pocketed all 12 points.

All three games were decided by narrow margins. Lynne Southwell finished 7 shots to the better of Alan Jackson, Ken North getting the better of John Grant by 3, while Kevin Willey enjoyed a 4-shot margin over Amy Roberts.

Wycheproof jumped from sixth place into third after it scored a 7-shot win over Boort and 10 points to 2, which had been holding second place in the competition’s pecking order.

Matt Nicholls’s four provided Wyche. with a match winning 7-shot victory over Wayne Keenan.

One shot was the winning margin in the other two games, Wyche.’s Jono Grylls team having its nose in front of Thelma Moresi by the narrowest margin, while wily veteran John Gibson secured 2 points for Boort by downing Dale Groves.

St. Arnaud won two rinks against the visiting Donald, but it wasn’t enough to carry the day, with Lindy Morgan’s crew of Alison McEwen, Marion McEwen and Kelvin Adamson blitzing Laurie Goodwin’s lot by 26 shots.

This margin more than compensated for losses by Beryl Milne by 7 shots to Phil McRae, and Margaret Quick by 11 shots to Lloyd Goddard, Donald picking up 8 points to 4.

Details of Round 5 Boort 67-2 lost to Wycheproof 74-10.

Glenda Charles, Yvonne Cashen, Phyl Baker, Thelma Moresi (s) 23 lost to Carol Jones, Des Nicholls, Jeannie Grylls, Jono Grylls (s) 24.

Sarah Polack, Tania Noles, Dorothy Gibson, John Gibson (s) 28 d. Andrea Coatsworth, Shirley McKenna, Lorraine Milburn, Dale Groves (s) 27.

Louise Newsome, Gillian Tweddle, Joan Earl, Wayne Keenan (s) 16 lost to Lynette Nicholls, Vince Grant, Alan Jones, Matt Nicholls (s) 23.

Donald Golf 87-11 d. St. Arnaud Country Club 52-1.

Shirley Evans, Luke Kelly, Joyce Hollis, Stewart Hollis (s) 36 d. Yvonne Templar, Suzanne Wright, Faye Rodger, Rhonda Pole (s) 13.

Corozon Stopps, George Wood, Merilyn Frank, Shane O’Shea (s) 24 drew with Leigh Abbott, Patricia Goode, Colleen Bond, Heather Esmore (s) 24.

Debbie Adams, Sue Donnellon, Brenda Dixon, Peter Hibberd (s) 27 d. Dianne Fullarton, Greg Fullarton, Lyn Moulday, Amanda Marland (s) 15.

Charlton 69-12 d. Wedderburn 55-0.

Jenni McGrath, Jeff Cox, Dale McCallum, Lynne Southwell (s) 24 d. Helen Stephenson, Lance Standfield, Sandra Steel, Alan Jackson (s) 17.

Gary Bateson, Wendy Laffin, Mark Hemley, Ken North (s) 22 d. Robina Little, Judy Matthews, Ruth Hall, John Grant (s) 19.

Eily Rosewall, Doug Gretgrix, John Headon, Kevin Willey (s) 23 d. Lynette Don, Sandra Standfield, Joan Murnane, Amy Roberts (s) 19.

MIDWEEK PENNANT BOWLS

Positions of Teams, after round 5

	P	W	L	D	Bye	F	A	SD	%	Pts
Donald Golf	5	4	1	0	0	404	302	102	133.77	42
Charlton	5	3	2	0	0	372	309	63	120.39	37
Wycheproof	5	3	2	0	0	366	316	50	115.82	35
Boort	5	3	2	0	0	330	378	-48	87.30	32
St Arnaud	5	2	3	0	0	329	337	-8	97.63	30
Wedderburn	5	2	3	0	0	333	340	-7	97.94	26
Donald	5	2	3	0	0	347	358	-11	96.93	26
St Arnaud CC	5	1	4	0	0	277	418	-141	66.27	12

St. Arnaud 74-4 lost to Donald 81-8.

Heather Stevenson, Margaret McIntyre, Sandra McIntyre, Laurence Goodwin (s) 14 lost to Alison McEwen,

Marion McEwen, Kelvin Adamson, Lindy Morgan (s) 40.

Andrea Tyler, Terry McSwain, Marie Hufer, Phil McRae (s) 27 d. Kay Wyllie, Joan Wood, Ev Adams, Beryl

Milne (s) 20.

Anne McNally, Margaret McRae, Paul Micallef, Lloyd Goddard (s) 32 d. Bo Subprom, Peter Wyllie, Marg Kelly, Margaret Quick (s) 21.



• St Arnaud Country Club bowler Greg Fullarton delivers his bowl watched closely by Sue Donnellon. In the background, Colleen Bond, Leigh Abbott, Lyn Mouldy, Dianne Fullarton, Brenda Dixon and Debbie Adams.



• Family members playing for different clubs. Heather Esmore represents St Arnaud Country Club, whilst her brother Stewart Hollis plays for Donald Golf.



• The style of St. Arnaud CC bowler Rhonda Pole. Rhonda has been selected to play for the local playing area at Coughlan Park in Horsham this Sunday.

North-Central Pennant Bowls

This Week’s Selected Club Teams



DIVISION ONE

Round 6, Saturday, November 15

Wycheproof v. St Arnaud Country Club WYCHEPROOF

A. Jones, G. Coatsworth, J. McKay, J. Grylls (s)
R. Grylls, B. MacDonald, P. Wellington, D. Groves (s)
S. Wellington, J. McLean, M. Nicholls, E. Rayes (s)

ST ARNAUD CC

T. Coloe, M. Pole, J. Abbott, W. Rodger (s)
S. Atkinson, A. Marland, J. Nevill, D. Mullins (s)
D. Moulday, R. Pole, M. Esmore, T. McDonald (s)
Cards: T. McDonald. Team Manager: D. Moulday.

Donald Golf v. Boort

DONALD GOLF

W. Livingston, B. Murray, S. Hollis, P. Hibberd (s)
L. Kelly, A. Dionosopolous, D. Peake, D. Pettifer (s)
A. Humphrey, R. Adams, R. Reeseigh, G. Rigby (s)

BOORT

K. Birt, D. Gibson, C. Newsome, S. Morris (s)
G. Carrall, J. Gibson, T. Moresi, K. Ritchie (s)
K. Walton, G. Hudson, W. Keenan, K. Depiazza (s)

Charlton v. Donald

CHARLTON

M. Hamley, D. Gretgrix, D. McCallum, S. Perry (s)
P. Watts, J. Cox, L. Southwell, K. Willey (s)
S. Harper, M. O’Brien, D. Finlay, W. Southwell (s)
Side captain: K. Willey.

DONALD

M. Kelly, substitute, substitute, H. Wingfield (s)
W. Hegarty, N. Barber, I. McEwen, N. Hollis (s)
M. Quick, M. Harris, B. Milne, L. Morgan (s)
Cars. L. Morgan, N. Barber, M. Kelly.

Wedderburn v. St. Arnaud

ST ARNAUD

D. Shepherd, C. Marchment, P. McRae, A. Dyke (s)
K. Dyke, G. McNally, G. Hancock, S. Zsigmond (s)
T. Marland, M. Wood, A. Welsh, T. McSwain (s)

WEDDERBURN

No team list provided.

DIVISION TWO

Round 6, Saturday, November 15

Wycheproof v. St Arnaud Country Club WYCHEPROOF

A. Coatsworth, S. McKenna, C. Jones, S. Barratt (s)
T. Sheppard, V. Grant, L. Milburn, Jeannie Grylls (s)
J. Ritchie, S. Prater, R. Coles, D. Denney (s)

ST ARNAUD CC

F. Rodger, L. Lynch, N. Robinson, C. Webb (s)
J. Jorgensen, G. White, P. Mullins, G. Shaw (s)
G. Watts, D. McAllister, P. Marland, D. Goode (s)
Cards: G. White. Team manager: D. Goode.

Donald Golf v. Boort

DONALD GOLF

C. Stopps, M. Rayes, B. Bayles, L. Borden (s)
W. Nelson, J. Slater, G. Stopps, G. Wood (s)
M. Frank, B. Brasier, P. Raynes, S. O’Shea (s)
Emergencies: C. Raynes, E. Brasier.

BOORT

I. Allison, S. Rollinson, J. Hampson, G. Smith (s)
L. Cameron, S. Polack, Y. Cashen, A. Matley (s)
C. Wood, A. Gould, P. Waters, J. Earl (s)

Charlton v. Donald

CHARLTON

R. Gahan, G. Thomson, B. Bailey, J. Headon (s)
Substitute, Z. Irwin, G. Barnard, G. Bateson (s)
Substitute, J. McGrath, B. Laffin, E. Rosewall (s)
Side captain: L. Southwell.

DONALD

K. Wyllie, P. Wyllie, J. Meyer, D. Romeo (s)
A. McEwen, B. Subprom, E. Adams, J. Howley (s)
C. Perry, B. Hollis, M. McEwen, R. Gravestock (s)
Cars. K. Wyllie, R. Gravestock, D. Romeo.

Wedderburn v. St. Arnaud

ST ARNAUD

J. Barron, D. Ostarcevic, C. Coates, L. Goddard (s)
H. Stevenson, A. Tyler, G. McIntyre, L. Goodwin (s)
P. Duncan, M. McRae, J. Prendergast, P. Micallef (s)

WEDDERBURN

No team list provided.

Birchip Bowlers at Home and Away

Birchip took on Kerang Golf at Kerang in the Northern Valley Pennant, while in the Tyrrell Pennant competition they played Woomelang at home.

Birchip led all day until the last bowl at Kerang and unfortunately went down by a shot.

At Birchip, they managed to win both divisions, and both grades remain on top of the ladder going into their harvest break.

Northern Valley Pennant

Kevin Reid, Wayne Clark, Tony Doran and Mick Spicer took on Frank Ritchie's team. Birchip jumped out of the blocks and was ten shots up after three ends. Kerang got on the board but was still six shots down at the break. The

game tightened and it was the Birchip skipper who helped keep his team in front. They went on to win by three shots (25-22).

Des Ryan, Blue Wight, Andrew Lee and Adam Louttit came up against Damien Murray's team. This was an even contest, with Birchip four shots up at the break. Ends were shared when play resumed, but it was the Birchip visitors who found themselves six shots up at the end of the day (21-15).

Richard Haddrick, Roger Bragg, Owen Reid and Mark

Bowen took on the flamboyant Richie Murray's team. The Kerang locals led all day. The margin was never huge, but the Birchip team was always chasing shots. The final bowl of the day by Richie Murray turned two shots into three shots, which was enough to give Kerang Golf an overall victory (61-60). Kerang Golf won this rink (21-14).

Tyrrell Pennant Division One

Jennifer Blainey, Bryan Hogan, Grant Cartwright and Liam Scott had a comfortable victory against the Graeme Symes-led team. They were twelve shots up at the halfway mark and extended this out to fifteen shots at day's end. The scorecard read (29-14).

Tom Gravestocks, Greg Martin, Glen Trollope and Kelvin Hagley came up against Karen Smith's four-some. They found themselves down by nine shots at lunch. When play resumed, they clawed their way back in the match, drew level, then continued on their merry way to eventually win by three shots (20-17).

Peter Gould, "Sauce" Hogan, "Waffle" Grogan and Rob Ince had to work hard against the team skippered by Matt White. Scores were neck and neck until the fifteenth end, where Birchip snagged six shots. To its credit, Woomelang was still a chance with two ends remaining. Birchip won both ends, which meant a five-shot win (27-22).

Overall, Birchip won (76-53) and grabbed all the available match points.

Division Two

Geoff Smith, Pauline Bragg, Tash Hogan and Stan Fraser had a draw against Di Boxall's team. Birchip was well in control for two-thirds of the game, but Woomelang found form when it counted and did enough to share the points. Score was (18-18).



• Greg Martin is a picture of concentration as he launches his bowl.

Ray Barr, Peg Hogan, Matt Barr and Errol Beinder were up against Charlie Kent's team. After an even start, the Birchip side managed to stay

in front as the game progressed. It was five shots up at lunch and stretched the gap to eight shots by game's end (26-18).

Overall, Birchip won (44-36) and took the majority of the available match points.

"You gotta be up"



• Errol Beinder tossing his bowl while onlookers watch.

Wimmera-Mallee Cricket Ladders

"A" Grade

	P	Pts	Q	W	L	Tie	N/R	Bye
Southern Mallee Giants	3	12	2.732	3	0	0	0	0
Marnoo	3	10	2.538	2	0	0	1	0
Birchip Swans.....	3	8	0.728	2	1	0	0	0
Watchem Panthers	3	4	0.810	1	1	0	0	0
St Arnaud Saints.....	3	2	0.780	0	2	0	1	0
Charlton.....	3	0	0.564	0	3	0	0	0

Horsham Cricket Association

"A" Grade

	P	Pts	Q	W	L	Tie	N/R	Bye
West Wimmera	4	24	1.379	4	0	0	0	0
Donald-Jeffcott.....	4	18	1.627	3	1	0	0	0
Bullants.....	4	18	1.615	3	1	0	0	0
SGW	4	18	1.813	3	1	0	0	0
Brim KSH.....	4	12	1.307	2	2	0	0	0
Lubeck-Murtoa.....	4	12	1.396	2	2	0	0	0
Laharum	4	12	1.016	2	2	0	0	0
Colts	4	6	0.652	1	3	0	0	0
St Mary's	4	0	0.399	0	4	0	0	0
Tigers.....	4	0	0.207	0	4	0	0	0

"B" Grade

	P	Pts	Q	W	L	Tie	N/R	Bye
Horsham Saints	4	24	3.700	4	0	0	0	0
Tigers.....	4	18	1.383	3	1	0	0	0
Bullants	4	15	1.837	2	1	0	1	0
SGW	4	15	1.832	2	1	0	1	0
Colts	4	12	1.290	2	2	0	0	0
Panthers	4	12	0.882	2	2	0	0	0
Donald-Jeffcott.....	4	12	0.819	2	2	0	0	0
West Wimmera	4	6	0.422	1	3	0	0	0
St Mary's	4	6	0.235	1	3	0	0	0
Brim KSH.....	4	0	0.852	0	4	0	0	0

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