

DONALD

Phone: 5497 1222

Email:  
buloket@inet.net.au  
admin@buloketimes.com

# The Buloke Times

Est. 1875

BIRCHIP

Phone: 5492 2735

Fax: 5492 2863

Email:  
birchipblc@  
bigpond.com

Published Tuesdays and Fridays

PP331336/0000 1

Friday, December 13, 2024

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

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

## Top of Their Class

School Awards Nights are being held throughout Buloke during the coming week. Congratulations to all who have successfully negotiated another challenging year, and in particular to the following students, named as dux of their school.



### Birchip

Birchip P-12 school Dux for 2024 is Bella Morris who earned the ATAR of 89.8

Bella obtained study scores in English, Food Studies, Chemistry, Psychology, Biology (in year 11), General Maths (in year 11).

Bella is hoping to study Optometry at Deakin University Geelong next year. Birchip P-12 School congratulates the 20 students graduating with their Victorian Certificate of Education in 2024.

Many of these have also fully completed studies in Vocational Education and Training.

Overall Birchip P-12 School is pleased with the results that the students received and that they have achieved the outcomes needed for the next step in their lives.



• Bella Morris.



### Charlton

Congratulations to Dayne Bartlett, the 2024 Charlton College Dux.

Dayne has demonstrated a conscientious and hardworking approach to her studies. She achieved study scores in English, Accounting, Mathematical Methods, Biology, Health and Human Development and Community Services.

Dayne has balanced her studies with leadership roles at Charlton College, including School Captain and been a great role model both inside and outside the classroom. She has been supported by her family and staff at the College in all areas to help her achieve great success in her VCE.

The school community looks forward to hearing of Dayne's many successes along the way. Charlton College would also like to acknowledge and extend its best wishes to the 2024 graduating class and is incredibly proud of the results they have achieved.



• Dayne Bartlett.



### Donald

The Dux for 2024 at Donald High School is Jacob Donnellon.

Jacob achieved an ATAR score of 96.20, which included study scores of 47 for Physical Education (placing him in the top 1% of students for this study), 43 for Accounting and 40 for General Maths, which he studied in Year 11. Jacob also achieved 37 for English, 36 for Chemistry and Legal Studies, the latter of which he also studied in Year 11.

Jacob's final result puts him in the top 3.8% of VCE students in the state for this year. Over the six Year 12 studies he undertook in 2023 and 2024, he achieved fourteen individual assessments of an A or A+ from a possible eighteen.

Jacob thanks the staff of Donald High School for his education over the past few years, including two difficult years of remote learning when he was completing Year 8 and Year 9. He also thanks his family



• Jacob Donnellon.

for all their support and for putting up with some stressful times over the course of his senior studies.

Jacob intends studying a Bachelor of Law (Honours) at Monash University in 2025.

Out of the nine strong cohort of Year 12 VCE students in 2024, three achieved an ATAR score in excess of 80, putting them in the top 20% of students in the state.

Including the four Year 11 students who studied at least one Year 12 subject this year, six students achieved at least one study score of 35 or above, placing them in the top 25% of students in the state for that study.

Donald High School congratulates the class of 2024 and wishes them all success and happiness in their lives beyond school.



### Wycheproof

Amara Cowell is the 2024 Dux of Wycheproof P-12 College.

She is the only daughter of Keltia Lyndsay of Wycheproof, and Heath Cowell, of Beaufort. Amara hopes to study Law at Monash University in Melbourne. Throughout her schooling, she undertook many workplace experiences to further her career interests, including working at the "Weekly Times" in Melbourne and the Monash Medical Centre.

In Year 11 Amara studied Health and Human Development. In Year 12, she completed her VCE pathway by studying English, Legal Studies, Global Politics, Psychology, and Art Making and Exhibiting. Amara has always been determined to produce her best academically and is well regarded in the community as a reliable, hard-working young person. Her passionate and informative, public speaking was always a college highlight. She was



• Amara Cowell.

awarded a Kwong Lee Dow scholarship in 2022 for high achievement from The University of Melbourne.

Wycheproof P-12 College congratulates all its amazing VCE and VCE VM students

on their various successes throughout the year and wishes them all the best for their future. All VCE students satisfactorily completed their VCE certificate at Wycheproof P-12 College in 2024.

# Christmas Cheer at Cricket Club

Following cricket matches on the Donald-Jeffcott cricket ground this Saturday, December 14, the club will host a Christmas party to celebrate end of year, and everyone is invited!

Not only will there be a special visit from Santa at 6 p.m.; the whole community is welcome to join the Donald-Jeffcott cricketers for a baked dinner from 6.30 p.m., followed by live music provided by band "Diesel 'n' Dust" from 7 p.m. until late.

It only costs \$20 per person for tea and \$50 for families, with drinks at bar prices. The cricket club's party is sure to be a great night out without breaking the bank and

all proceeds go back to the support the club.

## Sponsors

No sporting club could be without its sponsors and the cricket club is no exception, receiving support from businesses such as Rice Livestock, Gilchrist & Co., Buloke Plumbing, Tony Fagan Building, North West Ag Donald, Leeder Carpentry, Spud's Cafe, Nutrien Ag, Regional Wholesalers, Donald Family Butcher, Weirs IGA Donald, Foott's Fat Chooks, and Mensland.

The Donald-Jeffcott cricket community would like to thank its sponsors, with their meal free on the night and the chance to kick back and celebrate the end of year with the teams and their supporters.

## Joker Poker

Don't forget, Joker Poker is held every Wednesday night at the Donald Hotel from 6 p.m. until 8 p.m.. Get in on the action, have a great meal and support a local club and business at the same time.

# Les is Heywire Winner

Nullawil's Les Cooper was this week announced as a 2025 ABC Heywire winner, sharing his story about mental health.

The seventeen-year-old entered the Heywire competition to inspire other young people to step outside their comfort zones and speak openly about their mental health struggles.

"I think in regional areas, it's something that isn't talked about enough and I hope to break that stigma," he said.

Les shared his story about how his mental health declined after his mum was diagnosed with stage 4 breast cancer.

"When Mum became too unwell to look after me, my mental health collapsed," Les said.

"I hadn't been talking to anyone about what was going on."

It took a meeting with the assistant principal and a strong warning to realise where he was at with his mental health.

"When life at home was tough, getting away from it was an escape," Les said.

"I began volunteering for my local cricket and footy club and as a country firefighter.

"When you're working with someone, side by side, focused — you can talk about how things have been going. What's been good, what hasn't.

"Every conversation I had, meant the next conversation got bigger, deeper.

"It was a domino effect," he said.

Les's courage in sharing his journey sheds light on the resilience and community spirit that define regional Australia.

"As soon as I spoke about how I was feeling, the community wrapped their arms around me."

Les recognises the support that he has received from a wide range of the community and is grateful for the kindness of others.

"I still feel I owe a lot of special people in my life for what they've done," he said.

"It might've been a small thing for them, but for me it added up to something special."

Les becomes the third consecutive Heywire winner from Birchip P-12 School.

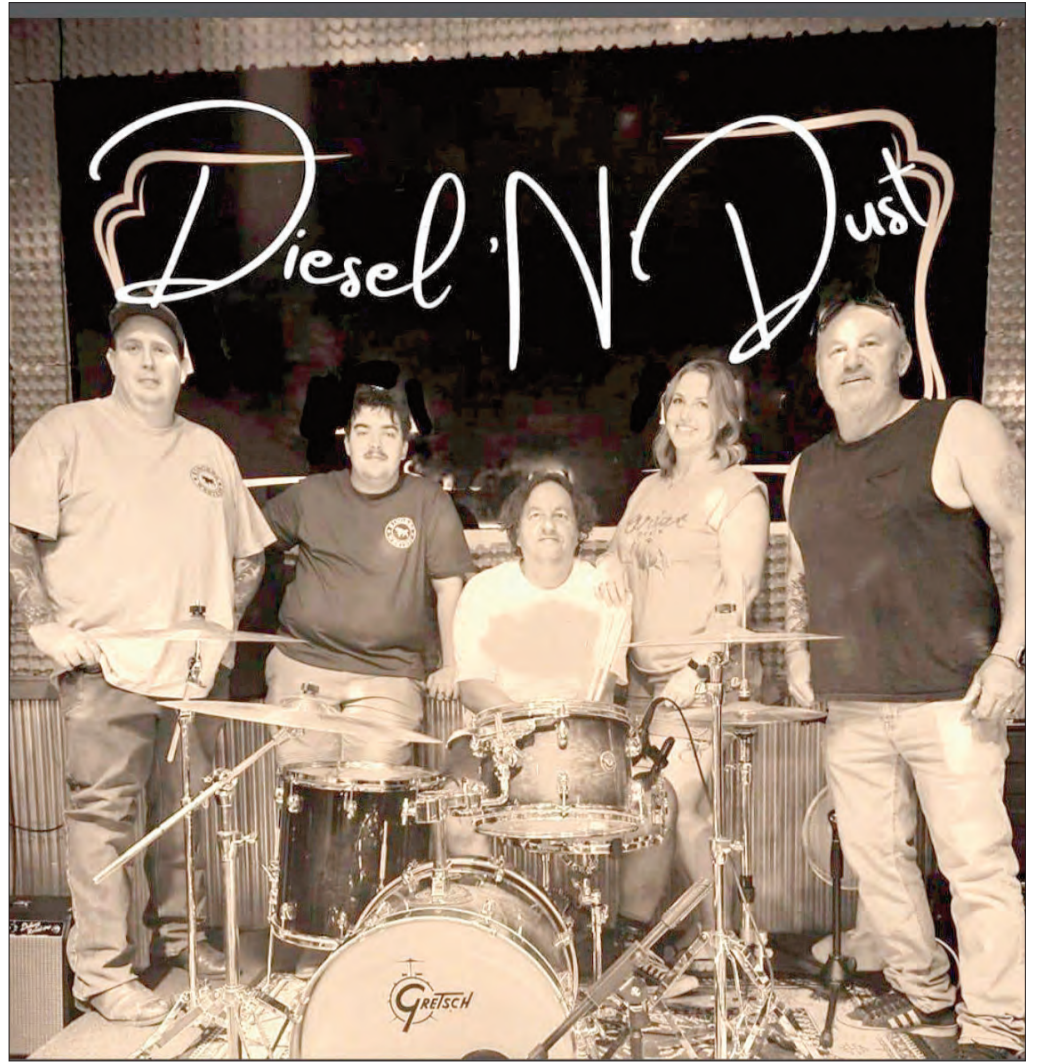
The competition aims to amplify the voices of a new generation from across regional, rural and remote Australia.

Les will travel to Canberra in February for a week-long Heywire Regional Youth Summit in which he will meet the other 37 winners and brainstorm ideas to improve the lives of regional youth, meeting politicians and policy makers and making lifelong friends.

Congratulations Les! You can listen to his story on the ABC Heywire website.



• Les Cooper.



• Live music at Donald-Jeffcott Cricket Club this Saturday night from Diesel 'n' Dust.

# "Giving Tree" Charity

At the front of the Donald's IGA store, near the checkouts, shoppers will find charity boxes for the local "Giving Tree" which will be filled with items to distribute to families in the district a few days from Christmas by Donald Friends and Neighbours.

The concept is simple, with cost-of-living rising, some families might be struggling at this time of the year, and the Donald Friends and Neighbours group is calling to the community to make donations towards the "Giving Tree" charity.

When shopping at the IGA next, as you are going through the checkout, consider which items you have purchased that you may be able to go without, just this once... and perhaps place those items in the charity box for someone in need this Christmas.

Local families will be the recipients of these collected items and will no doubt appreciate the extra help during the silly season, so please give generously!



• Donation boxes at the IGA in Donald, where items can be placed for distribution to local families by Donald Friends and Neighbours a few days before Christmas.

# Service Begins Birchip's Sunday Christmas Party

This Sunday, December 15, the Birchip Community Christmas Party will bring holiday cheer to the air-conditioned Birchip Public Hall and adjoining Morrison Street.

With a new daytime format, the event promises a vibrant mix of activities, Christmas sentiment and entertainment, making it an unmissable day for the whole community.

The day begins at 10:00 a.m. with an Ecumenical Church Service, and from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., Morrison Street will transform into a bustling marketplace. Stalls will offer an impressive variety of goods, including handmade dog leads, candles, beads, gifts, biscuits, crafts, slime, resin art, plants and much more. These markets provide a great chance to pick up unique Christmas gifts while supporting local stall holders.

Meanwhile, the family-friendly rides and activities will run from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.. Attractions such as the Cha Cha, a blow-up activity centre, and bungee trampolines promise hours of fun for kids and thrill-seekers alike. Santa will also make a special appearance, spreading joy and cheer to children of all ages.

## Barbecue Lunch

A delicious barbecue lunch will be served from 12:00 p.m. to 1:30 p.m., complemented by a coffee van, slushies, and the ever-popular CWA Christmas treats. The hall will be air-conditioned, providing a cool and comfortable place to enjoy your meal.

Tables will be set up inside and outside for socializing, and Mallee Family Care's pop-up playgroup will keep younger children entertained indoors, safe from the heat.

At 1:30 p.m., attention turns to the traders' draws and a special presentation of "The Year That Was." This reflective pictorial view of Birchip and Birchip people will celebrate community achievements over the past year, culminating in the announcement of prize winners in the highly anticipated "BIG BUCKS" draw.

## Entertainer

Adding to the festive atmosphere, a roving entertainer will delight attendees with magic, stilt walking, balloon art, and face painting. Refreshments such as soft

drinks and snow cones will be available throughout the day, with attendees welcome to bring their own alcohol.

While the weather is expected to be warm, organizers have ensured the event remains comfortable. Activities will wrap up before the day's peak heat, and the pool will open from 2:00 p.m. for anyone wanting to cool off.

The Birchip Community Christmas Party is a celebration of the festive season and the vibrant spirit of the local community. Whether you're coming for the markets, the rides, the food, or simply to connect with friends and neighbours, there's something for everyone to enjoy.

Don't miss this wonderful opportunity to celebrate the holidays with the community. See you there.

Thanks to sponsors Wilkur Energy Park, O'Connors, FReeZA, Buloke Shire Council and Central Mallee Osteo the event will be offered for a small entrance fee which includes entertainment and rides of \$10 per person over three.



• Santa Claus is coming to town!

## A Service of Joy and Reflection

This Sunday the Birchip and district community is invited to the Birchip Public Hall for a morning of unity, joy, and celebration with the Birchip Anglican, Uniting and St Mary's Churches coming together to host an Ecumenical Church service in the lead up to the Birchip Christmas Party on Sunday December 15 at 10 a.m..

The service will feature a collaboration of readings, psalms, Christmas hymns, blessings, and prayers of the people from representatives of all three churches, offering the community a chance to reflect on the meaning of Christmas.

The service is open to everyone, even if you are not a regular church attendee. It is deliberately being hosted in a neutral venue and has been designed to celebrate the joy, peace, and goodwill that the season symbolises resonating far beyond the walls of a church.

### Opportunities

Attendees will have many opportunities to sing traditional Christmas carols, filling

the hall with the joyful sounds of the season along with guest performances from local talents like Bern Smith, Denita Donnan, and other beloved performers.

After the hour-long service, attendees are invited to linger, reflecting a time-honored practice of staying back for a friendly chat after Church on Sunday. The Red Caboose coffee van and Christmas treats from the Wirrim CWA members will add an extra touch of warmth to these post-service conversations.

### Tradition

The tradition of post-service mingling is a reminder of the deeper purpose of church gatherings: to strengthen

bonds, foster a sense of belonging, and build a supportive community. On this special Sunday, the experience will be enriched with the addition of a vibrant market, delicious barbecue, and uplifting performances, ensuring everyone leaves with hearts—and bellies—full.

So, whether you're a regular churchgoer or just visiting, come for the service and stay for the fellowship and festive cheer. It's in these simple moments, catching up with family and neighbours, and sharing a laugh that the true spirit of the Christmas season comes alive. In Birchip, Christmas isn't just celebrated—it's shared.

# Agricultural Land Must Be Protected

The Victorian Farmers Federation (VFF) has welcomed the Victorian Government recognising farming as a priority sector to boost the state's productivity, but says a clear strategy to protect important agricultural land is required.

In response to the Economic Growth Statement released this week, VFF President Emma Germano said a balanced approach to land use between competing priority sectors of the economy needs to be taken.

"The acknowledgment that agribusiness is a priority for the state's economic growth and competitiveness is very welcome and builds off the VFF's conversations with government," she said.

## Red Tape

"Cutting red tape to drive productivity is a key focus for the VFF and we have already made it a priority for our policy work next year. It is positive to see the Victorian Government has this shared commitment.

"However, the Economic Growth Statement is missing one key strategy that is required to protect and strengthen Victoria's food and fibre production.

"Whilst the statement recognises agribusiness as a priority, it overlooks the inherent conflict between agricultural land use and the demands of other priority sectors, such as critical minerals and renewable energy development.

"The statement is very heavy on seeing mining and renewable energy development over the top of land that produces our food by loosening planning and environmental safeguards."



• Emma Germano.

## Huge Contributor

"Victoria produces 30 per cent of the nation's food from just 1.5 per cent of Australia's land mass. We are a huge economic contributor and can do more if we commit to protecting our most valuable agriculture farmland.

"Agricultural land is a finite resource, and the government must prioritise its long-term viability in any strategy aimed at growing the state's economy.

"At the end of the day, solar panels and wind turbines have an end of life, and mines get filled in. Farming is forever.

"The VFF has been consistent in calling on the Victorian Government to implement a clear and robust strategy to identify and protect strategic agricultural land from inappropriate development."

• Take care on the roads — no one is safe from careless drivers.

## 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.



## E-Mailers!

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

## The Buloke Times

Est. 1875

## Commercial Printers



Call in and see our experienced staff for all your commercial printing at competitive prices. Free quotes given.

- \* Letterheads
- \* Receipt Books
- \* Statements
- \* Posters
- \* Business Cards
- \* Raffle Books
- \* Programs
- \* Brochures
- \* Account Books
- \* Pamphlets
- \* Docket Books
- \* Envelopes
- \* Membership Cards
- \* Personalised Stationery

## FULL COLOUR PRINTING

To discuss your printing needs, ring 5497 1222 (Donald), or call in at our office in McCulloch Street, or see Simone at the Birchip Business and Learning Centre, in Cumming Avenue, Birchip.

6 McCulloch Street, Donald  
Phone 5497 1222  
Email: art@buloketimes.com

# "Times" Classifieds

Phone Donald 5497 1222,  
Birchip 5492 2735  
Email [admin@buloketimes.com](mailto:admin@buloketimes.com)

**DEATH COSSAR.**—  
Neil William  
Passed away  
December 8th 2024.  
Aged 76 years.

Dearly loved only Son of William George and Katie (Dolly) Cossar (both dec.)  
A kind and loving Son.

**COSSAR.**—  
Neil William  
23/06/1948 – 08/12/2024  
Passed away peacefully  
at the Bendigo Hospice.

Cherished friend and cousin of Elaine and Ian Baker.

A gentle and loved mentor to Kelvin, Wendy and Melissa and their families.

*A servant of his community.*



**DEATH COSSAR.**— Neil.

An acknowledged past president, and esteemed member of Charlton Bowling Club Inc.

Our deepest sympathy to Elaine, Ian and extended families.

*—From the committee and members of Charlton Bowling Club Inc.*

**DEATH HOGAN.**—  
Brendan John  
of Donald  
passed away peacefully  
on December 5, 2024,  
aged 92 years.

Loving father and father-in-law of Maree & Allan; Julianne & Gavan; Jennifer; Sharyn; Justin & Lisa. Treasured Grandpa of 8 and Great-grandpa of 11.

*A chapter completed,  
a page is turned,  
a life well lived  
a rest well earned.  
In Gods care.*

**DEATH HOGAN.**— Brendan  
Much loved brother of Maureen and John Howley and family.

*Rest in Peace.*

## MOBILE DIESEL MECHANIC AVAILABLE

- all machinery experience
- on farm repairs
- servicing all areas

**Phone Jesse  
0401 228 417**



**DEATH RICHMOND.**—  
Mary Kathleen "Kath"  
15/06/1929 - 09/12/2024  
Died peacefully  
at Ballarat after a long  
and happy life.

Eldest daughter of Peter and Alma Connellan (both dec.).

Sister of Moira, Tom (dec.), Pat and Mary.

Dearly loved wife of Geoff (dec.).

Mother of Colleen, John, Margaret-Anne, Peter, Gerard, Lawrence and Teresa.

Mother and mother-in-law of Colleen and John Vallance.

Grandmother of Sarah and Andrew Jones, Julian and Laura Vallance and Lucy and Julian Sambell. Great-grandmother of Zara, Jimmy, Sadie, Jagger, Esther, Alfie, Indie and Flossie.

Mother and mother-in-law of John and Christine Richmond.

Grandmother of Carrie and Jono Gourlay, Liam and Rebecca Richmond, Joshua and Sandie Richmond and Bridget and Nathan Williams.

Great-grandmother of Charlotte, Angus, George, Annie, Thomas, Patrick, Sienna, Ari, Jock, Rylie, Spencer, Charlie and Scarlett.

Mother and mother-in-law of Margaret-Anne and John Wright.

Grandmother of Peta Wright and Rob Butler, Elizabeth and Matt Dennis and Zane and Bernadette Wright.

Great-grandmother of Lucia, Richard, Jude, Agnes, Margot, James and Gus.

Mother and mother-in-law of Peter and Fiona Richmond.

Grandmother of Kirby and Glen Davis, Prue (dec.) and Greig Batty and Laura and Hayden Coombs.

Great-grandmother of Texas, Lyric, Victory, Jesse James (J.J.), George and Polly.

Friend of Brittany.

Mother and mother-in-law of Gerard and Dianne Richmond.

Grandmother of Brenton and Sheridan Richmond, Lauren and Alanna.

Mother and mother-in-law of Lawrence and Suzy Richmond.

Grandmother of Lily.

Mother and mother-in-law of Teresa and Paul Szumski.

Grandmother of Thomas and Molly.

Australian Mother of Lori Viuhkola-Bartol.

*A celebration for the life of Kathleen will be held in St Alipius Church, Victoria Street, Ballarat East on Friday, December 20, 2024 at 10.30 a.m., burial at the Ballarat New Cemetery, followed by refreshments at the Ballarat North Sports Club.*

**FUNERAL COSSAR.**—  
Neil William  
A Thanksgiving Service for Neil will be held in the Charlton Uniting Church, 4-6 Halliday St, Charlton, on Tuesday, December 17, at 1.30 p.m.

A private burial will precede the above.

**NAPIER PARK FUNERALS**  
BENDIGO (03) 5441 4800

**FUNERAL HOGAN.**—

Requiem mass for the repose of the soul of Brendan John Hogan will be offered at St. Mary's Catholic Church Donald on Tuesday, December 17 at 10.30 a.m.

The cortege will then leave for the Donald Monumental Cemetery.

KELL FUNERALS  
ST. ARNAUD 5495 1043  
NFDA EST. 1860

**REMEMBERING 50 YEARS ON**  
*James "Jim" Francis McKew*  
14/12/1974

Much loved husband of Eileen (dec.). Adored father of Jamie, Anne, Mary, Eileen, Therese and Caroline.

*You can remember him and only that he has gone, or you can cherish his memory and let it live on.*

Clever, quiet and kind – we will remember you forever Dad.



**WYCHEPROOF P-12 COLLEGE Presentation Night**

**Monday, Dec. 16**  
SPORTING COMPLEX  
@ 7.30 p.m.

~ Student Awards ~  
~ Musical Items ~

Doors open at 7 p.m.

**ALL WELCOME**

~ All students must wear school uniform ~  
~ A light supper will be provided ~

**Come and Visit Santa**

from 18-24 December

Santa will be visiting Donald Riverview Aged Care

between 8.30p.m. - 10p.m. and will be sitting on the verandah.



Enter through the front garden gates.

An advert. in "The Buloke Times" can cost as little as \$10, and up to 5,000 readers will see it.

**GARAGE SALE**  
62 Aitken Ave, Donald  
**Saturday, Dec. 14**  
9 a.m. to 12 noon  
Household furniture, whitegoods, generators, fencing & lots more.  
Presales welcome  
Ph 0427 004 660

**Are You a Woman Who Loves to Travel?**

**Are you sick of doing the same thing every day?** Why not join me travelling around Australia! I have a truck, large caravan and a car. You will be required to drive the car sometimes. Would suit an easy-going lady with a good sense of humour, and a love for life. Genuine ladies only, call Charlie on 0412 554 404. No texting please.

Ecumenical Community Church Service  
*With Carol Singing*  
**Sunday, Dec. 15**  
10 a.m.  
BIRCHIP PUBLIC HALL  
*Followed by Birchip Community Christmas Party*

## Advance Notice

Donald & District Community Bank

Are **OPENING** Christmas Eve  
11 - 1pm  
1.45 - 4pm

**CLOSING** - 25th Dec, reopening 6th Jan

Bendigo Bank



**Sixty-fourth Annual**

*Awards Night*

**DONALD MEMORIAL HALL at 8 p.m.**  
**Tuesday, December 17**

Parents and members of the community are invited to attend this function.

Sincere thanks are expressed to all those people of this community who have supported the school generously in provision of Awards for this evening.

Your interest in our school is appreciated.



Birchip Forum, Birchip Traders and Birchip Neighbourhood House Presents

# BIRCHIP BIG BUCKS

THANK-YOU TO OUR INCREDIBLE LOCAL SPONSORS

• TMC ENVIRO	• KAWAII KIDS
• OCONNORS	• BIRCHIP IGA
• SHARPS BAKERY	• R.L. BALES
• MALLEE BRANDED	• NOONAN TYRES
• BIRCHIP AUTOMATIVE	• MALLEE STEEL
• YBS AG	• BULOKE TIMES
• GREGS DIGGING	• CENTRAL MALLEE OSTEO
• CENTRAL MALLEE OSTEO	• BIRCHIP POST OFFICE
• MANDYS SALON	• BIRCHIP NEWSAGENCY
	• MALLEE SHEARING SHED

## FOR SALE BY EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

**WIMMERA CROPPING LAND – BANYENA DISTRICT**

411.8 acres (166.65 Ha) as a whole or in 2 lots



**Lot 1: 224.81 acres (90.98 Ha) approx.**

1 main paddock, well fenced

**Lot 2: 187 acres (75.71 Ha) approx.**

1 main paddock, well fenced

Pipeline water available, mixed loam soil types, typical of the district.

**EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST CLOSE:**

**Friday, January 31, 2025 @ 2 p.m.**

**Elders Office, 30 Scott Street, Warracknabeal**

*All or any EOI not necessarily accepted.*



Further information, EOI form and inspection contact:

**Nick McIntyre 0409 180 016**

# “Times” Classifieds

Phone Donald 5497 1222, Birchip 5492 2735

Email [admin@buloketimes.com](mailto:admin@buloketimes.com)

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

## BIRCHIP MEDICAL PRACTICE

East Wimmera Health Service and Dr Daniel Owa of the Birchip Medical Practice would like to advise that the Birchip Medical Practice will be closed from **Monday, December 23, 2024 from 12 noon until Monday, January 6, 2025 at 9 a.m.**

Patients will require enough scripts to cover them during this period. If scripts are needed, please make an appointment with Dr. Daniel Owa prior to **Monday, December 23, 2024** and patients that require INRs will need to make an appointment to organize the INR tests.

While the Birchip Campus of the East Wimmera Health Service does not have a Doctor the following arrangements have been made.

### EMERGENCIES

IN CASE OF EMERGENCIES CALL 000

### URGENT MEDICAL ISSUES

NURSE-ON-CALL 1300 60 60 24

Nurse-on-call is a telephone health line, providing Victorians with immediate, expert health information and advice 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

### GRAMPIANS AFTER HOURS SERVICE

1800 641 395

Grampians after hours service is a telephone health line, providing immediate, expert health information and advice after hours.

### HOSPITAL OUTPATIENTS (URGENT MEDICAL CENTRE)

(03) 5477 7100

The Birchip Campus will continue to run the Hospital Outpatient services. As the Birchip Campus does not have a doctor, Birchip is unable to admit patients into the hospital. If the patient needs to see a doctor, the nursing staff will coordinate this appointment. The appointment will most likely be at another campus of East Wimmera Health Service. If hospital admission is required then the person may be sent to Wycheproof, Donald or Horsham. If the case is an emergency, then 000 should have been called and the patient could be sent to Horsham, Bendigo, Ballarat or a major trauma centre in Melbourne if required.

### BIRCHIP NURSING HOME

Birchip Nursing Home will continue unaffected throughout this period. Alternative arrangements have been made to ensure medical coverage during Dr. Owa's absence.



## Donald & District Australia Day Committee

is calling for **NOMINATIONS FOR**

- Citizen of the Year 2025
- Young Citizen of the Year (Under 25) 2025
- Event of the Year

**Nominations should include a summary of supporting information.**

Post nominations to Donald 2000, Box 200.  
Applications close January 19, 2025.



Cultivating Healthy Communities

## JOB OPPORTUNITIES

### Campus Negotiable

Maintenance Officer  
Nurse Practitioner  
Foot Care Nurse  
Physiotherapist  
Senior Counselling & Wellbeing Clinician  
Domiciliary Nurse

### Birchip

Food and Domestic Service Assistant

### Donald

Nurse Unit Manager

### St Arnaud

Resident Lifestyle Coordinator

Executive Assistant

Finance Officer

Finance Manager

Food and Domestic Service Assistant

Associate Nurse Unit Manager

Deputy Director of Clinical Services

Enrolled Nurse

### Wycheproof

District Nurse- Registered Nurse

Food and Domestic Service Assistant

Associate Nurse Unit Manager

Registered Nurse

Further information available at  
<https://ewhs.org.au/careers>

## CONTRACT SPRAYING

### Mallee Spraying Services

CASE IH 4430 self-propelled sprayer available  
Fully licensed and insured | Available all areas

Phone **Tim Coffey 0431 057 117** or

**Dan Coffey 0448 989 604**

## Donnellon's Bulk Haulage

Pty Ltd

### BUYING ALL GRAINS

### BULK CARRIERS of . . .

- Gypsum
- Gravel
- Road Base Materials
- Fertilizer
- Woodchips

### Public Weighbridge 3008

Phone Bill

**5492 2333 or 0428 136 483**

## Rail Track Labourer Wycheproof



- Monday to Friday, 7:30 am to 4:00 pm
- RDO every fortnight
- \$38.27 p/h + super + o/time + penalties + loading

V/Line's North-West region is seeking a dedicated Rail Track Labourer to join their maintenance team. In this role, you will report to the Track Ganger and work with your team to perform key tasks such as laying, aligning, repairing, and maintaining railway tracks throughout the region.

Our ideal candidate will also meet the following requirements:

- Valid Victorian Driver's License
- Must have completed Year 10 or equivalent
- Previous experience in a manual labouring role is advantageous

The recruitment and selection process may include aptitude assessments, behavioural and/or technical interviews and employment references.

Successful applicants will be required to undergo pre-employment screening including, probity (police) checks, medical assessment, and Australian entitlement to work. Employees of V/Line are required to maintain a valid Working with Children Check Victoria (Employee) for the duration of employment.

To apply please visit the V/Line careers page at:  
<https://corporate.vline.com.au/Careers/Working-at-vline>

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



Isaiah

**ST MARY'S PRIMARY SCHOOL, DONALD**

# Mensland

OUTFITTING MEN SINCE 1959



## KRIS KRINGLE

check out  
the table of  
goodies!

Just ring or email [mensland@inet.net.au](mailto:mensland@inet.net.au) and we will deliver your order.

For Promotions, Specials and Competitions, us on Facebook

Find us on

**70 Woods Street, Donald — 5497 1211**

# “Times” Classifieds



## Contract No. C126 – 2024/25 FRRW – NULLAWIL MERIDIAN ROAD – DP5

The Buloke Shire Council invites tenders from competent and experienced contractors for Flood Recovery Reinstatement Works with works involving the reinstatement of seal, pavement and subgrade to pre flood condition on Nullawil Meridian Road Ch 0.00km - Ch 7.105km. Further details are available at [www.buloke.vic.gov.au/tenders](http://www.buloke.vic.gov.au/tenders). Tender documents are available for downloading from <https://portal.tenderlink.com/bulokeshire>.

Tenders close:  
2 p.m. AEDT Tuesday, January 21, 2025.

Wayne O’Toole  
CEO Buloke Shire Council



## CONTRACT No. C127 2024/25 FRRW – LAEN LITCHFIELD ROAD – DP12

The Buloke Shire Council invites Tenders from competent and experienced Contractors for Flood Recovery Reinstatement Works with works involving the reinstatement of seal, pavement and subgrade to pre flood condition on Laen Litchfield Road Ch 7.780km - CH 10.015km. Further details are available at [www.buloke.vic.gov.au/tenders](http://www.buloke.vic.gov.au/tenders). Tender documents are available for downloading from <https://portal.tenderlink.com/bulokeshire>.

Tenders close:  
2 p.m. AEDT Wednesday, January 22, 2025.

Wayne O’Toole  
CEO Buloke Shire Council



## CONTRACT No. C128 2024/25 FRRW – VARIOUS ROADS – DP5

The Buloke Shire Council invites Tenders from competent and experienced Contractors for Flood Recovery Reinstatement Works with works involving the reinstatement of seal, pavement and subgrade to pre flood condition on Warne Road Ch 3.9-4.01km, Warne Road Ch 4.15km to 4.375km, Warne Road Ch 8.56km to 9.035km, Berrivillock Birchip - Ch 23.23km to Ch 23.66km, Nullawil North Road - CH 0.17 to CH 0.55km. Further details are available at [www.buloke.vic.gov.au/tenders](http://www.buloke.vic.gov.au/tenders). Tender documents are available for downloading from <https://portal.tenderlink.com/bulokeshire>.

Tenders close:  
2 p.m. AEDT Wednesday, January 22, 2025.

Wayne O’Toole  
CEO Buloke Shire Council



# Read Up, and Be in the Draw

Northern Grampians Libraries staff are inviting families to spend their summer holidays with their noses in a few good books – and potentially win a prize along the way.

Stawell and St Arnaud library branches are again participating in the BIG Summer Read, an annual reading challenge created by Public Libraries Victoria.

The challenge started on December 1 and runs until January 31.

Now in its fourth year, the BIG Summer Read has grown to include all public library services in Victoria, along with services in New South

Wales, Tasmania and Queensland.

In 2023, more than 16,000 young readers read more than 220,000 books.

Northern Grampians Shire mayor, Karen Hyslop, encouraged families to sign up for the challenge by visiting Stawell or St Arnaud library branches.

### Challenge

The challenge is open to participants up to the age of

18, including independent and non-independent readers.

“What a wonderful way to encourage reading over the holidays,” Cr Hyslop said.

“Research shows the wide-ranging benefits of being read to, so we are also encouraging parents or caregivers to sign up their little ones and read aloud to them over the summer.

“They or their parents simply log every book they read,

that is read to them, or is listened to as an audio book.

“Return your reading logs to go in the draw for some great prizes, including the major prize of a \$50 gift card at each library.”

### “Summer Slide”

Cr Hyslop said Public Libraries Victoria developed the BIG Summer Read in response to research identifying a “summer slide”.

“This refers to the loss of literacy skills over the summer holidays when children do not read,” she said.

“According to Public Libraries Victoria, it is estimated that on average, children will lose the equivalent of two to three months of reading proficiency if they do not engage with reading across the holiday period.

“Public libraries are in a great position to help combat the summer slide and I’m pleased to see we have already had interest in the BIG Summer Read from people in our library community.”

More than a dozen families have signed up since the start of December, including challenge newcomers and familiar faces.

People can visit [www.ng-shire.vic.gov.au/Residents/Library-services](http://www.ng-shire.vic.gov.au/Residents/Library-services) for more information about what’s on offer at Stawell and St Arnaud branches.



• Ryan and Sophie are in the running to win prizes as part of the BIG Summer Read, now at Stawell and St Arnaud library branches.

15TH DECEMBER

# BIRCHIP CHRISTMAS PARTY

CAROL SINGING, ECUMENICAL CHURCH, MARKETS, RIDES & FOOD

<b>10AM-11AM</b>	ECUMENICAL CHURCH SERVICE & CAROL SINGING IN THE HALL
<b>11AM-2PM</b>	MARKETS ON THE STREET
<b>11AM-3PM</b>	RIDES, SANTA VISIT
<b>12-1.30PM</b>	BBQ LUNCH & FOOD STALLS
<b>1.30-2.00PM</b>	TRADERS DRAWS & PRESENTATION OF YEAR THAT WAS

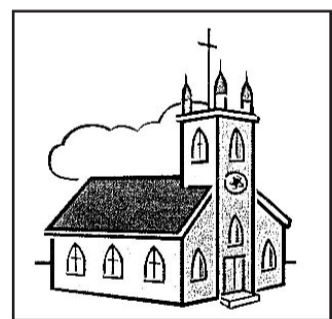
BIRCHIP PUBLIC HALL & MORRISON STREET  
\$10 PER PERSON OVER 3

MARKETS-SELLING DOG LEADS, CANDLES, BEADS, GIFTS, BISCUITS  
CRAFTS, SLIME, RESIN ART & MORE

RIDES - CHA CHA, BLOW UP ACTIVITY CENTRE, BUNGY TRAMPOLINES  
ROVING ENTERTAINER - MAGIC, STILT WALKING, BALLOONS, FACE PAINTING  
BBQ LUNCH, COFFEE VAN, CWA CHRISTMAS TREATS, SLUSHIES,  
SOFT DRINK, SNOW CONES, BYO ALCOHOL  
MALLEE FAMILY CARE - PLAYGROUP POP-UP PLAY

THANKS TO:

www.freeza.vic.gov.au



## CHURCHES

### 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)

#### Christmas Eve

Boort	5.00 p.m.
Birchip	7.00 p.m. (Livestream out <a href="https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCMqUdLT0T7CPqfGWhllSJ7g">https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCMqUdLT0T7CPqfGWhllSJ7g</a> )
St Arnaud	7.00 p.m.
Donald	9.00 p.m.
Charlton	9.00 p.m.

#### Christmas Day

Wycheproof	9.00 a.m.
Banyena	9.00 a.m.

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



# Speed cameras can be anywhere.

If you speed, even a little over the limit, you can expect a minimum fine of \$247 and 1 demerit point. Police and speed cameras can be anywhere, so why take the risk? Chances are you will be caught.

Anywhere. Anytime. Anyone.

**TAC**

**VICTORIA**  
State  
Government





• Last year's Christmas Carols on the Lawn at the VRI Hall. This year is sure to attract another supportive crowd ready to share the joy of the season.

## Carols on VRI Lawn

On Sunday, December 15, the community is invited to attend Christmas Carols on the lawn of the VRI Hall in Donald, thanks to a collaborative effort from members of Donald's various churches.

This is the second year of Christmas Carols held at the VRI Hall and last year's event attracted a very supportive crowd assembled in a relaxed atmosphere to celebrate Christ's birth and share the joy of the season.

This year's event promises to provide another wonderful

afternoon out for friends and family to gather together, share a free sausage sizzle and Zooper Doopers plus great company to help get in the Christmas spirit.

Contributions from various community groups will include WOW (Wonders of Wednesday) kids, Donald Kindergarten children, Corack Performing Arts Project, St. Arnaud Brass Band, St. Arnaud Ukelele Group and, of course, familiar carols for those

assembled to join in with the time-honoured tradition of singing together at Christmas.

Come along to the VRI Hall on Walker St, Donald from 5.30 p.m. to 7.30 p.m. and lend your voices to this fabulous afternoon of festivity, in celebrating the birth of our Lord and Saviour, the season and each other. Bring your own chairs or picnic blankets, be sure to wear your sunscreen, and be ready for a relaxed afternoon of community Christmas cheer.

# Sparkies Deliver Sack Full of... Christmas Safety Tips

Peak industry body Master Electricians Australia (MEA) has delivered a sack full of safety tips for Aussie homeowners to refer to when purchasing and installing their Christmas lights.

Their 12-point Christmas safety checklist has been specially developed to ensure households are able to light up their homes with festive decorations while keeping themselves safe.

MEA CEO Kate Raymond said the checklist ranged from tips on purchasing quality products through to installation recommendations.

"Draping the house in Christmas decorations is a much-loved tradition for households right across Australia and it certainly lights up the festive season," Ms Raymond said.

"It's important that Australians be vigilant when it comes to electrical safety as they begin to deck their homes in Christmas lights.

"Australians need to be careful not to buy inferior products from overseas that don't meet Australian standards, while also taking simple but effective steps to safely install Christmas decorations.

"That's why MEA is providing a checklist of safety tips to assist homeowners to correctly install Christmas lights and prevent tragedy."

The safety checklist includes action items such as

buying lights from recognised retailers, only using low-voltage lights, and ensuring outdoor installations are protected against the weather.

Ms Raymond recommended taking the time to research products to ensure they meet Australia's high safety standard levels. Other measures that homeowners should embrace include using safety switches, only using lights designed for outside use and keeping connections weatherproof and out of reach of children.

"Don't be tempted to purchase cheap LED lights online," she said. "These products may save a few dollars but could prove far more costly if they do damage to your property or a loved one.

"Carefully inspect lights for any cuts, nicks, exposed wire or discoloration to fittings. If your product is damaged or doesn't look right, get it checked by a licensed master electrician.

"There is no substitute for safety when it comes to anything electrical. MEA wants all Australians to have a memorable and safe festive season."

For further information please phone The SAS Group on (07) 3221 9222 or 0467 792 013.

### Christmas Lights Safety Checklist

1. Check for the Australian Regulatory Compliance Mark

(RCM) on your lights or transformer/s. Some may also include the approval number eg. Q12345, V01294 or N12345 (if unsure, visit [www.eess.gov.au](http://www.eess.gov.au)).

2. Visit [www.product-safety.gov.au](http://www.product-safety.gov.au) to check for any recalled Christmas lights – even the best retailer's issue these from time to time.

3. Ensure you have safety switches installed. Check that it works by pushing the test button and seeing that the lights operate.

4. Are you using extra low voltage lights? Tip: look for lights with a transformer.

5. Ensure your outdoor lights are designed for external use.

6. No 240-volt cabling to any outside garden beds or lights.

7. Ensure your outdoor connections are weatherproof and secured out of the reach of children.

8. All your decorations are always kept clear of powerlines, swimming pools, driveways and walkways.

9. Ensure that you always safely turn off outdoor lights during rain or storms.

10. Do NOT piggyback any double adapters or power boards.

11. Go with solar lights if you can – it's better for the environment and safer for you.

12. Replace the batteries in all your smoke detectors.

## ACEN Australia announces new project: Corack East Wind

**What is Corack East Wind?** ACEN Australia is in the early stages of investigating a large-scale wind farm 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.

**Where will it connect to the grid?** ACEN Australia is investigating opportunities to connect Corack East Wind to the proposed VNI-West interconnector, being developed by Transmission Company Victoria.

**What stage is the development at?** Corack East Wind is in the Development stage. This stage is expected to take four years. Pending project approval, construction is proposed to begin in 2029, to align with delivery of VNI West.

**How will ACEN engage with the community to share information and seek input on the project?** ACEN Australia believes it is important to engage early and provide the community with an opportunity to learn about the project, share feedback and information and meet the ACEN team. To achieve this, we will collaborate with host landowners, neighbours, First Nations groups, and the wider community, sharing information about proposed changes and exploring how the project can bring meaningful benefits.

Our goal is to be a valued, long-term contributor to the community.

**Who is ACEN Australia?** ACEN Australia is the platform representing ACEN's renewable energy assets in Australia. With more than 1 gigawatt (GW) capacity of large scale renewable energy generation in operation and construction and more than 13GW capacity in the development pipeline, its portfolio includes several solar, wind, battery and pumped hydro projects across Australia.

**Where can I find out more about the project?**

Email:  
[info@corackeastwind.com.au](mailto:info@corackeastwind.com.au)

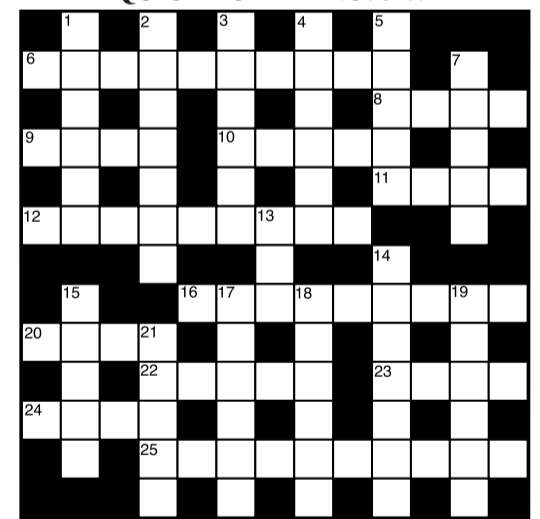
Phone:  
**1800 498 550**

Project Website:  
[www.corackeastwind.com.au](http://www.corackeastwind.com.au)

ACEN Australia Website:  
[www.acenrenewables.com.au](http://www.acenrenewables.com.au)

## "Times" Crossword

QUICK PUZZLE NO. 8159



### ACROSS

6. Language (10)
8. Converse (4)
9. Animal (4)
10. Deduce (5)
11. Flair (4)
12. Went down (9)
16. Decide (9)
20. As well as (4)
22. Prestige (5)
23. Notion (4)
24. Against (4)
25. Merit (10)

### DOWN

1. Buccaneer (6)
2. Building (7)
3. Allot (6)
4. Nonplus (6)
5. Head-dress (5)
7. Cheerless (5)
13. Expert (3)
14. Warship (7)
15. Side (5)
17. Lessen (6)
18. Affront (6)
19. Ditch (6)
21. Winter sportsperson (5)

• Solution next issue.



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



# Carols Brighten “Christmas at the Rex”

(By Jenny Pollard)

The spirit of Christmas glowed bright at a packed Rex Theatre last Sunday night, as the annual “Carols” brought families and the community together for the widely loved end-of-year celebration.

Embracing both the traditional and contemporary, the message of unity rang out loud and clear as music and song brought the Christmas message of hope alive through the school presentations, the singing of favourite

carols and the upbeat address by Pastor Tom Ayars, from Connect Church.

The excitement was palpable as children arrived at the Rex wearing Santa hats, and other decorative ornamentation,

eager to collect a glow-stick and get ready for their on-stage segments.

The evening, which is a collaboration between The Rex, the Uniting Church, St. Joseph’s Parish, St. Martin’s Anglican Church and Connect Church, saw a streamlined program unfold using the Rex screen to project the words of carols, then seamlessly drop the curtain to provide a backdrop for the performing groups.

The end-of-show highlight was the carol “Silent Night” with the audience asked to raise their glow-sticks and phone lights and wave in time to the music – creating a magical scene of sparkling light across the entire auditorium.

MC Greg Towers began the night with a welcome as the carols kicked off with “Away in a Manager” and “Joy to the World”, before students from Charlton College presented three numbers including the Wiggles rocking anthem, “Go Santa Go” and “Christmas in Australia – the Aussie Way” (tune Waltzing Matilda).

The Wedderburn Choir was a new addition to this year’s program presenting two items – “O, Holy Night” and “You Raise Me Up”. Formed seven years ago, ten members of the group performed on Sunday night, with leader, Helen Chandler conducting. Supporting events such as Anzac Day, the carols service in Wedderburn and singing at both the Charlton and Inglewood residential care outlets, the choir shares its talents widely across the local communities.



• “Go Santa Go” – Charlton College students set the upbeat mood for a rocking good time at last Sunday night’s “Carols at The Rex”.



• MC, Greg Towers led the audience in a sing-along of the Aussie version of “Jingle Bells.”



• The Wedderburn Choir, led by Helen Chandler, was a new addition to this year’s Carols program.



• St. Joseph’s students (back left to right) Julian and Johan Siju and (front left to right) Jayden and Jowakim Niju were excited about taking part in the 2024 Carols service.

A Christmas message of hope and sharing was presented by Pastor Tom Ayars, as audience engagement yielded enthusiastic responses from young and old alike!

A mix of traditional and modern saw St. Joseph’s School students present “Mary’s Boy Child”, along with a contemporary version of “Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer” and finishing with the seasonal classic, “Rockin’ Around the Christmas Tree”.

Continuing the home-grown flavour, Greg Towers then led the audience in “Aussie Jingle Bells”, which captures all the iconic Australian associations of the day, plus the immortal lines of – “Christmas time is beaut! / Oh what fun it is to ride, / In a rusty Holden ute!”

With celebrations in the air there was one more very special announcement to be shared as Greg asked the audience to join in the singing of

“Happy Birthday” for two impending nonagenarians – Bill Freeman and Norma Lang – who celebrate their ninetieth birthdays this week.

The evening concluded on a high with thanks being extended to accompanist Gill Gretgrix, the Wedderburn Choir, the school participants and the staff who prepare the students for event, Pastor Tom, plus all at The Rex for their support in presenting the evening.



• It’s a night for families to come together: pictured are Edward Power-Hall and Tayla Wells (standing) with children – 8 month old Harper and Ivy Wells (4), and Jasper (2) and Oliver Power-Hall (6) before the Carols evening began.



• Pastor Tom Ayars from Connect Church is pictured with his wife Mia. Tom’s address about the meaning of Christmas focused on the gift of sharing with others, along with the hope inspired by the birth of Jesus.

## DUNSTAN WOOL

Woolgrowers, for

- PROMPT CLIP VALUATIONS
- COMPETITIVE PRICES
- PAYMENT ON WEIGHING

Phone Donald 5497 1003

a.h. Glenn Dunstan 5497 1815; mob. 0427 971 004

AT DONALD: Every Friday at the Wool Store, Hammill Street, all day.

# Collaboration at La Trobe University

On Wednesday, December 4, fifteen students attended a University Collaboration event at La Trobe University in Bendigo.

This optional excursion targeted Year 8 and 9 students interested in attending university after high school.

It was the first event of its kind, with six universities coming together to showcase their courses to students from Donald High School, Cohuna Secondary College, Kerang Technical School and Murtoa College.

The participating universities were Monash, Deakin, RMIT, Swinburne, ACU, and La Trobe. Each school was allocated three workshops to attend during the day.

Workshop 1: Sports Management with Swinburne University.

Students learned about the one-year course, Planning Sporting Events – Sports Management, a diploma program affiliated with the Richmond Football Club. They also participated in a strength and conditioning circuit, which provided them with a hands-on experience of the course content.

Workshop 2: Rural Health – Medicine with Monash University.

This workshop introduced students to Monash University's Rural Health Medicine course. Students tested their CPR skills on a dummy, with their effectiveness measured by an app that scored their performance out of 100, based on the depth and timing of their compressions. Donald High School students excelled, with many achieving scores of 98 and 99 out of 100, making them the top performers in CPR for the day.

Workshop 3: Aerospace Engineering and Aviation with RMIT.

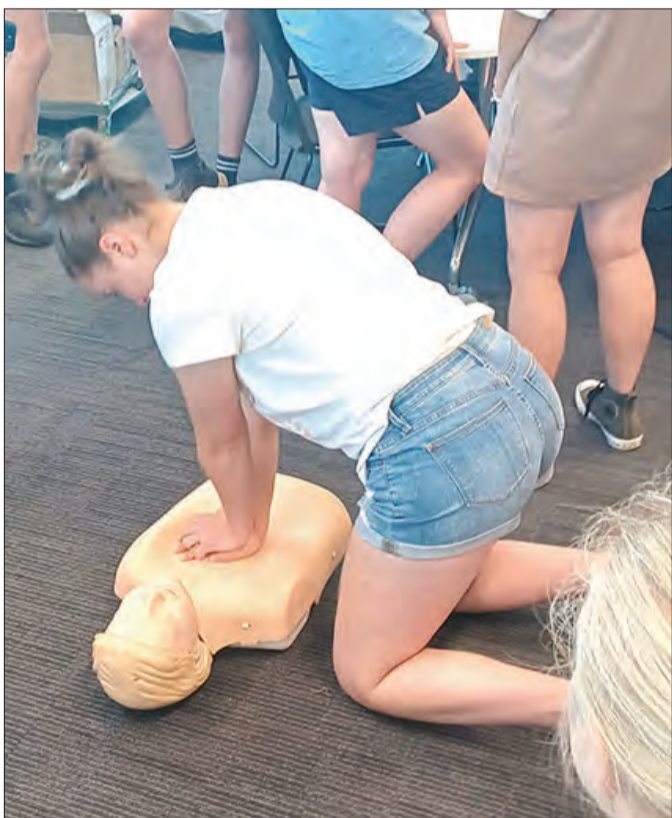
In this workshop, students explored the concepts of Rockets and Wings. They designed and launched their own rockets using an air-powered rocket launcher. Students experimented with different designs to determine which would fly the furthest and land accurately within a designated square across the room.

This well-organised excursion provided students with valuable insights into university life and the opportunities available to them. It encouraged them to ask questions and consider their future educational pathways.

A big thank you to Mr. Rodger and Mrs. Griffiths for accompanying the students on this excursion.



• Victory Davis and Sophie Burke on the strength and conditioning circuit.



• Alyssa Hepworth at the Rural Health Medicine workshop.



• Lecture theatre at La Trobe University.



• Hugo Funcke and Jack Reilly at the Sports and Management Workshop.



• Left: Shaine Mansibang and Milla Adams on the strength and conditioning circuit.



## Farm Safety is the Partnership's Aim

The Victorian Farmers Federation (VFF) has partnered with leading Australian farm safety software developer AirAgri to fast-track farmers access to new technology to enhance on-farm safety.

VFF vice-president Danyel Cucinotta said the partnership aims to reduce the overrepresentation of on-farm injury and death through the use of innovative technology.

"Farmers make up 14 per cent of all workplace fatalities, despite employing only two per cent of working Victorians," Ms Cucinotta said.

"That's tragically someone's dad, mother, family friend or loved one.

"We're committed to ensuring our loved ones come home at the end of the day and one of the ways to do that is to harness the benefits of cutting-edge, on-farm technology.

"One of the biggest benefits of this technology is the ability for farmers to receive real-time alerts if something goes wrong. We sometimes work in remote areas for hours on end and if something goes wrong, time becomes critical."

### Discount

As part of the collaboration, VFF members gain access to heavily discounted tools, including:

- High-Resolution Digital Farm Maps: Enabling precise monitoring and management of farm operations;
- Property-Specific Weather Insights: Providing accurate, property specific weather forecasts to help farmers make informed decisions;
- Automated Lone-Worker Monitoring: Ensuring the safety of individuals working

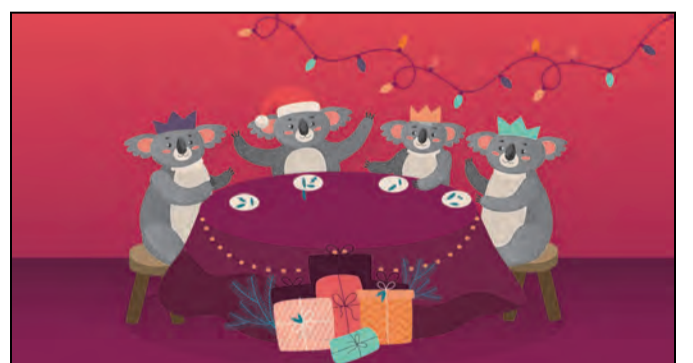
in remote and isolated environments through real-time monitoring and alerts.

AirAgri CEO James Diamond said the partnership signals a major step forward in ensuring the safety of Victorian farmers.

"Our partnership with the VFF marks a significant milestone in our journey to enhance farm safety," he said.

"We are committed to providing innovative solutions that protect farmers and their families and teams, and we look forward to working closely with the VFF to achieve this goal."

More information regarding this partnership and more VFF Member offers can be found on the VFF website.



## Share in the merry

From silent nights to loud Christmas lunches, may your festive season be a special one.

During the festive season our branch will close on Tuesday 24 December 2024, and reopen Monday 6 January 2025.

Merry Christmas from the Community Bank Charlton & District team.

Community Bank - Charlton & District 5491 2322

**Bendigo Bank**

Bendigo and Adelaide Bank Limited ABN 11 068 049 178, AFSL/Australian Credit Licence 237879 A1419239 OUT\_41940810, 26/11/2024

# Call for Review of Victorian-Approved Mineral Sands Mines

**“The Victorian Government’s approval of two mineral sands mines yesterday through Environment Effects Statements isn’t the end of the matter,” Member for Mallee Dr Webster said on Wednesday.**

As farmers learned of the two Mallee mines, the Member for Mallee lamented that Victoria’s prime agricultural land and the health of farming communities are not considered as significant as environmental grounds when assessing mining projects.

“I am deeply disappointed to hear that Victorian Labor Government granted Environmental Effects Statement (EES) approval for both the WIM Avonbank and VHM Goschen projects on the same day yesterday,” Dr Webster said.

“It is disheartening that major decisions affecting

Mallee and Wimmera farmers concerning mineral sands projects have occurred across successive years during both the cropping harvest and Christmas seasons.

“The conclusion of the Victorian EES process now activates federal review on environmental and radiation grounds. The likely Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act (EPBC) considerations for both projects are threatened species and radiation elements, with VHM also needing to demonstrate their project will have no significant impact on Ramsar wetlands.

“Late yesterday I wrote to Environment Minister Tanya Plibersek and Shadow Minister Jono Duniam (whom I also spoke with) to highlight the two projects’ significant concerns that must be considered by the current, or potentially future, Minister.

“The timeline for EPBC review, as I understand it, is for the Victorian Minister to now refer the projects to Minister Plibersek, who must obtain a report from the federal Department (DCCEEW). Once DCCEEW delivers that report to the Minister, the Minister must decide within around 20 to 40 days what conditions to impose

on the projects to prevent significant adverse environmental impacts

“Twice this year – with proposals at Victoria’s Port of Hastings for offshore wind turbines, and a residential development at Toondah Harbour in Queensland – the Albanese Labor Government determined no conditions would suffice, so the projects were blocked altogether on EPBC grounds.

“I am also advised that under Victorian mining law, if

a mining licence is approved, farmers can apply to the Victorian minister to exclude their farm from the licence. The minister can exclude the land if the mining licensee consents to the exclusion, or if there would be a greater economic benefit to Victoria in continuing agricultural use of the land.

“I cannot help but agree with farmers who have highlighted that Western Australian mining legislation gives farmers a right of veto, and



• Dr. Anne Webster.

that has not stopped WA reaping huge royalties from significant mining operations.”

## Flight to Cambodia



• Beau Haslam, Les Cooper, Tylah Haslam with school children.



• Ben Barbary and a little one.



**On November 29, twenty students and four staff flew to Cambodia to immerse themselves in a cultural experience and to participate in community service.**

Students visited one of the Seven Wonders of the World; the Angkor Wat Temple, Kulen Mountain, local markets, and the Landmine Museum.

The group spent three days at a school in Siem Reap renovating and painting both the classrooms and the outside of the school. All students contributed to murals painted on pillars focusing on the unity between Cambodia and Australia.

The Birchip P-12 students particularly enjoyed playing with the Cambodian school children and the language barrier presented no challenge as they shared laughter and simple games.

The Birchip P-12 School group returned to Australia on December 8, very much enriched by their experience. Birchip P-12 School will continue to raise funds for the Cambodian school, and they plan to visit again in the future.

### Free Breakfast

The school breakfast club, which operates two mornings a week, provides students with a free nutritious breakfast to start their day right. The food is donated by Foodbank as well as by the Birchip P-12 School.

Students are greeted by staff and student volunteers and served up toast, cereals, milk, fruit and yoghurt. This term 900 breakfasts were served with a total of 3901 for the year. The school appreciates all of the helpers who enable this program to run so smoothly.

# Police Beat

### Highly Intoxicated Driver

On Monday, December 9, Kerang Police processed a 46 year old male from Doncaster with drink driving. Police were alerted after he was found behind the wheel of his vehicle, which had rolled on to a street nature strip and come to a stop. The male returned a 0.259 breath test result. His vehicle was impounded for a period of 30 days at a cost of \$1335.

He will be summonsed to appear at court on a later date.

### Stolen – 3 Angus Calves Lake Boga

Between 8 p.m. on December 7 and 5:30 a.m. on December 8, unknown offender/s

have attended a paddock located on Lalbert Road, Lake Boga, where they have stolen three black angus calves.

Each calf weighs approximately 300kg and is valued at around \$1000. A “v” is cut into the left ear and they are all tagged electronically.

### Fire – Woorinen South

At approx. 1030 a.m. on December 7, a member of the public spotted a fire between Woorinen South and Pira. The small grass fire was burning between Harvey Road and Chillingollah Road on the eastern side of the road.

The fire was extinguished by the CFA. Investigations are continuing to determine if the fire was deliberately lit.

### Swan Hill – Warrants Drugs and Vapes seized.

Swan Hill Police have executed a number of search warrants in the last week; 150 vapes, and a quantity of Methamphetamine were located. One male has been charged and bailed and further enquiries continue.



**AMBULANCE PHONE NO. 000**

## Donald's 2024 Christmas Decoration Competition

### Kid's Choice Category

Please provide the address of property you choose as Donald's Best Christmas Decoration Display

---



---

Complete your entry and place in Santa's Mailbox in the Mall. You can vote as many times as you like. Online voting is also available head to the Donald Chamber of Commerce & Industry Facebook Page. The property with the highest number of votes will win the Kid's Choice Category.

**Winners Announced Friday 20th December in the Mall**

# One Hundred Years Ago

From the "Birchip Advertiser", December 19, 1924.

## Obituary

### John Henry Grace

The death of Mr. John Henry Grace took place at his residence at Birchip last Saturday morning.

The late Mr. Grace was born in New York City seventy-five years ago, and came to Australia with his parents at the inception of the gold diggings when only two years old. Shortly after that time the deceased resided at Ararat, at which town he lived for over sixty years. Ten years ago he removed to Ouyen with his wife, where he carried on wheat farming and grazing. In this line, Mr. Grace was somewhat successful, despite the many hard battles through drought and adverse seasons.

At one stage of his life, the deceased gentleman owned six-and-a-half square acres of land at Warracknabeal, and when disposing of this property he received the very small sum of £250 for the whole portion. Today, we are told, the same land is worth, and recently brought £8 per acre. This goes to show what some of the pioneers of the Mallee have faced. Mr. Grace was one of the first settlers in the Mallee.

Although the deceased was ailing for five weeks prior to his death, the sad news came as a great shock, as he was, even to the last, a very hardy and cheerful gentleman. He lived privately in Birchip for the last two-and-a-half years, and during that time made a large number of friends by his sociable manner.

He is survived by a widow, three daughters, and five sons, namely Mrs. Kelly, (Watchupga), Mrs. Arthur (Abbotsford), and Mrs. Crouch (Birchip); Thomas, Steven, Robert, Jack. Another son, Hughie, paid the supreme sacrifice while fighting at Lone Pine in the Great War.

The funeral took place at Birchip on Sunday last, the burial service being read by Rev. Father Barry while the funeral arrangements were carried out by Mr. W. H. Fielding.

The coffin bearers were as follows: Messrs. T., S., R., M., and J. Grace, and J. Kelly.

\*\*\*

## Better Roads

The next meeting of the Birchip Shire Council is expected to be a very interesting,

if not beneficial, one to ratepayers. At the last meeting of that body, our veteran Central riding representative had a few words to say about the state of our roads. He went on to say that something had to be done with them before the coming winter. This is quite true, too, as some of our roads are almost impassable after a heavy fall of rain. Of course, a great deal of this is due to lack of drainage. Cr. Lockwood stated that a plan of all bad roads should be drawn up by the Council's engineer, and a schedule of necessary repairs made by the Council at the January meeting. Dr. Robert Barber wanted to know where the money to do this work was to come from, but Cr. Lockwood assured him that the money would be alright.

"We want the roads to be fit to travel on," he went on, "not a big credit balance in the bank."

He further stated the council could overdraw to the extent of £2,000. "And what's that," he said with emphasis. Although the action was a very good one, it would be a very difficult problem to say if anything eventuated. However, ratepayers will welcome any action by the Council in this direction, conditionally that the roads are effectively repaired before next winter.

\*\*\*

## Birchip H. E. School

**Speech Night:** The second annual speech night was held last night, and the seating accommodation for 200 taxed to its utmost. Among the visitors present were Cr. W. H. Rickard, Shire President, and Crs. Lockwood and O'Donnell.

Proceedings were opened by Mr. F. W. Brockett, chairman of the school committee, who gave a resumé of the splendid progress made during the year. He stated that a Hostel was urgently needed to accommodate children from the country, and that the committee intended to appeal to the public early next year. Mr. Tate promised that if a hostel was built and the standard and attendance maintained, a high school would be established in the near future. In the field of sport, the school had gained great distinction and claims the championship of the Mallee.

This is the second annual speech night, and the first in this up-to-date building. The school has been opened for only three years, during 2½ years of which was taught in one room and an improvised room at the Elementary School. This building has every convenience, aid etc., to carry out the work of building up the youth's character. The nucleus of one of the best schools in the north is here, and it only needs a little energy on the part of the Birchip people to make it so.

**Attendance:** This year the school began with attendance of 73, which has gradually dwindled away to 58. This school is passing through the

same experience as other similar schools did in their infancy. The co-operation of townspeople in regards to board and lodging is imperative, and out of the increased attendance may come a hostel. Many country pupils will come if parents can be assured of suitable board and lodging conditions, which there will be organized by the committee and under some supervision by the teachers over the pupils. Next year should open similar to the last; but this is not sufficient. The school is not a town school, it is here for the district and so far, the district has made little use of it. Enterprise on the part of the townspeople and strong support from the country people are two necessities.

**Staff:** As you know changes are taking place in the staff of the school. Miss Bales who has been teaching here for two years, is taking up a permanent position in the High School at Colac. During this period she has carried out her work with great ability and the results in her subjects at examinations are highly satisfactory. She is wished success in her new sphere of work. Luckily for the school Miss Justin and Mr. Rumble are being retained. Miss Justin, by her untiring zeal has proved herself no mean factor in the success of the school. Congratulations to Mr. Rumble on being permanently appointed to this school. All members of the staff were thanked for their great endeavours in trying to improve the standard of the efforts of the students; the school has made a name very early in its life as far as results are concerned.

**Presentation:** At the beginning of the present school year, Mr. Pedlow and Miss Bales undertook to train C1 form in leaving subjects and although some of the members have accepted positions, the class which consisted of M. Lee, C. Pedlow, T. Stevens, M. McDonald, and E. Watson, on the occasion of the annual speech night, presented Mr. Pedlow with a clock for office table and Miss Bales with an Xylonite mirror as a token of their appreciation of these teachers' services in training them.

\*\*\*

"The Birchip Advertiser", December 26, 1924

## Local and General

**Soldiers' Memorial Park:** At a meeting of the Park Committee, held at the Shire Hall on Tuesday evening, a tender of Mr. W. H. Fielding's amounting to £190/10/0 was accepted for the erection of a rotunda. The rotunda will be an ornamental and useful structure. An appeal will be made to the public, and the shire council for donations at an early date. At present, there is a credit balance of £130, with a few outstanding subscriptions to collect. A move will be made shortly to erect a number of memorial seats.

\*\*\*



• Donald 2000's Jodie Hollis receives the largest donation yet to the big kookaburra project from Sam Goldsmith representing the Duckz Nutz B 'n' S Ball.

## Big Kookaburra Donation

There has been an exciting update on the flight of the big Kookaburra perhaps heading south for the summer? It is hoped to see the big bird take up its position early in the new year.

Donald 2000 is extremely grateful to have received a massive \$10,000 donation towards the Kookaburra project from Sam Goldsmith and his team under the Donald B'n'S banner.

This, along with other donations throughout the campaign have seen the idea move closer to reality and there is certain to be many who will be anticipating its arrival with mounting excitement.

Donald 2000's Jodie Hollis has been a significant driving force behind the project and, on behalf of the committee, extends thanks to all who have contributed to the big Kookaburra since the idea's inception.

"To have these groups in our local town that are passionate about the community and its growth to support financially, is remarkable and we are forever grateful," she said.

For anyone wanting to donate, there is still a chance to contribute to this new town feature. Get in contact with Jodie Hollis on 0428434960 to find out more.

Well done to all involved with this project; the town will look forward to the big Kooka's landing next year.

## Scaling New Heights

Anne Webster, MP, reached new heights, literally, during her first-ever visit to the summit of Mount Wycheproof, the world's smallest registered mountain!

Perfectly timed to acknowledge International Mountain Day (IMD) on Wednesday, December 11, the occasion proved that even the smallest peaks can inspire big smiles and plenty of unique Mallee Skyline photographic opportunities.

Mount Wycheproof may be small, but it certainly leaves a lasting impression and is a valued community and tourism asset.

The Friends of Mount Wycheproof (FoMW) extend thanks to Anne for taking time to visit Mount Wycheproof and utilising her social media platforms to shine a spotlight on recognising IMD, whilst further promoting the acclaimed "King of the Mountain event", coupled with the value of experiencing the spectacular views.

Anne's acknowledgment not only celebrates the spirit of the Mount Wycheproof community, but also amplifies the significance of IMD, and is a reminder of the value that connection and collaboration play in making our regions thrive.

The theme for IMD in 2024 is "Mountain Solutions for a Sustainable Future – Innovation, Adaptation, Youth and Beyond". The United Nations promotes the day to raise awareness about the important roles that mountains can play in communities and in hosting



• A screenshot from Dr. Anne Webster's video atop the world's smallest registered mountain for International World Mountain Day.

plants and animals too.

The FoMW aim to acknowledge the date year-on year and signage denotes this upon entry to the Mount precinct. In the past, celebrations have been held on the summit with ABC Wimmera Radio undertaking a live broadcast, barbecues and "Q. and A." sessions, and a cake cutting ceremony as part of the annual Wycheproof P-12 College School Presentation evening. The Friends are grateful to Anne for her advocacy and promotion of IMD in 2024.

## Church Notices

### ANGLICAN "Parish of Charlton-Donald"

Enquiries: Rev'd Judi Bird  
0435 593 359

Friday, December 20  
St. Paul's, Birchip, 5 p.m.  
Christmas Crib Service

Sunday, December 22  
St. Martin's, Charlton, 9 a.m.  
St. George's, Donald, 11 a.m.  
Holy Trinity, W'burn, 3 p.m.  
Christmas Crib Service

# Wedderburn First Responders Celebrate Career Milestones

Three Wedderburn Ambulance Community Officers (ACOs) have been celebrated for their dedication at Ambulance Victoria's (AV) recent Loddon Mallee Staff Service Awards.

Dede-jo Williams and Bruce Hargreaves were recognised for each notching up 10 years with AV, while Glenn Thompson received his 15-year service award.

ACOs are First Responders employed on a casual basis to work on-call and are trained to provide advanced first aid in rural and remote communities.

Wedderburn used to be serviced by a Community Emergency Response Team (CERT), made up of volunteers, before the team transitioned to ACOs.

Dede said it was the secretary of the CERT who got her involved in AV.

## New to Town

"I was new to town and she approached me at the post office to tell me about the CERT," Dede explained.

"I thought it was a different volunteer role and I was looking for what I could be involved in.

"She was a beautiful lady and she has now since passed, so it's even more treasured that she got me into it.

"I don't think I'll ever leave until I retire now."

Dede didn't have any medical background at the time, but that wasn't an issue.

"I had none apart from being a mum to three kids," she said.

"You don't need experience though as all training is supplied."

After 10 years on the road, Dede said it was special to work in her local community and be able to help people she knows.

"That look of relief on their face when you walk through the door, you can't put a price on it," she said.

"It's reassurance for them when they're scared or in pain to know a local is there.

"I feel like I'm doing some good."

When Dede got the call to let her know she'd been in the role for a decade, she couldn't believe it.

"There's not many times you get to be part of an organisation for 10 years," she said.

"Every day is different, every job is different, you work with wonderful people – it's not a chore.



"You're well-supported, you're well-educated, it's an easy thing to be part of."

Reflecting on his decade of service, Bruce said he was also surprised to reach the milestone.

"It's something that I do for the community and to last 10 years, it's superseded my expectations of what was going to happen," he said.

## A Privilege

"It's a privilege to be able to help people and when you get a good outcome, the satisfaction is there.

"Because you're an ACO and have a bit more knowledge, it helps the people around you.

"People see the uniform and know you're an ACO and as soon as something hap-



• From left: Wedderburn ACOs Bruce Hargreaves, Dede-jo Williams and Glenn Thompson.

pens, they turn to you for reassurance.

"It is satisfying."

Glenn said he's surprised with how far he's come in the role.

"I didn't think I'd be any good at it, but you learn a lot of stuff watching the Advanced Life Support (ALS) paramedics do their thing," he said.

## Great People

"We have great people in the team and now I've trained a couple of them myself."

Over his career at AV, the most memorable cases for Glenn have been cardiac arrests with a positive outcome, including helping save the life of Korong Vale teenager Tyson.

Glenn said his favourite part of being a First Responder in Wedderburn is also one of the biggest challenges.

"The main thing for me is that you get to help your community and when I arrive on

scene, they're relieved to see me," he said.

"But the hard part is that we know everyone we attend, and we see them at their worst or occasionally in their last moments too."

The trio were recognised at an awards event in Bendigo on October 28, where paramedics and First Responders from across the region received honours for between 10 and 20 years of service at AV.

# Be in the Donald Draw next Friday

For over 20 years the Donald Chamber of Commerce and industry has encouraged shopping locally, supporting local business and rewarding those who do so.

During that time, cars, holidays and over \$200,000 has been given away as a reward of shopping locally and supporting the businesses that support the local community!

Next Friday night, the 20th of December, is draw night, the street party, whatever you like to call it. It's a great opportunity for the community to come together in a relaxed atmosphere in Woods Street, support the local businesses that are open, and enjoy a tasty snag in bread from the Lions Club.

For those with a taste for seafood, the prawn spinning wheel will be back in action, make sure you get yourself

some tickets to walk away with some prawns for the evening.

The "Jolly Man in the Red Suit" will be available for photos from 6 p.m. in the mall; one complementary photo per family, taken by Julia Pearse Photography.

## Entertainment

The community will be entertained by the Voice superstar Elias Lanyon, alongside Donald's superstar Leo Tellefson. A variety of entertainment will be available for the kids all free of charge thanks to the generosity of the participating businesses in the promotion.

Face painting will be in the mall with Janelle's Face and Body Art, scattered around the mall area in woods street will be Tiny Goats and Co, Fair Dinkum Fauna, Feathers and Things, Charlton Lions Club Jumping Castle and the Big Baller Challenge.

Entertainment will be from approximately 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. with the main draw

announcements starting from 7 p.m.

To enable a smooth set up for the street party, Woods Street will be closed to traffic between 3 p.m. and 9 p.m. between Hammill and Blair Streets. Please ensure there are no vehicles parked in the street during this time, there is ample parking behind the mall, Weirs car park and McCulloch street car park.

Donald's Grinchy Elf has been appearing at several shopping locations around

town, naming his location over the duration of the promotion can score you some great Grinchy prizes – entry forms available from the Chamber's Facebook page or Weirs IGA on the counters.

## Decoration Competition

Donald's Christmas decoration competition has residents putting their final touches on their displays. Will Napier Street take out the title again this year of best street? Who's got the best house and

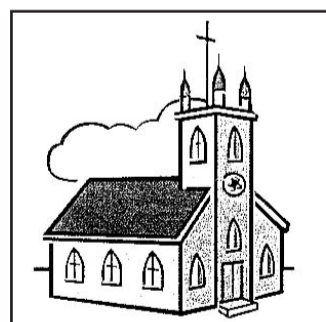
the best business decorations? A change to this year's competition was giving the kids a choice, the public voted competition is at the discretion of the kids, and entry form is included in this edition of the "Times" or collect from Love Shack Giftware, or download from the Chamber's Facebook page.

Special mention to Margie, Kate and Yvonne and their army of elves for the magnificent job they have done in decorating Donald for Christmas – a stellar effort!

## Church Notices



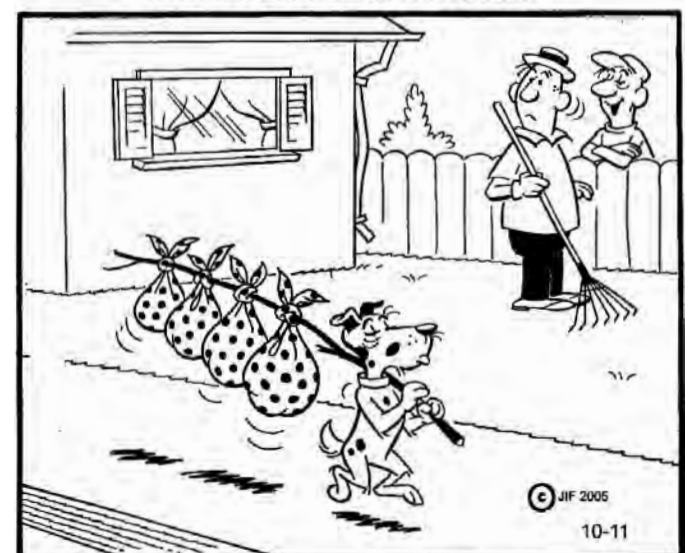
www.granitecommunitychurch.com  
At Granite Church  
10.30 a.m.  
with David & Taryn Price  
Baptist Union of Victoria



## UNITING CHURCH (North Central Living Waters Cluster)

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

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



"Matching luggage! Now there's a fella who runs away in style!"

Mark and Raelene continue the Kelly and O'Halloran names, known and trusted for personal, dignified and professional service for over 60 years. From two of the smallest family owned businesses in the Mallee.

5492 2547  
90 Curlewis Street Swan Hill  
swanhillfunerals.com.au  
5032 1011  
1 Morrison Street, Birchip 3483  
kellyfuneralsbirchip.com.au 24 Hours 7 Days a Week  
**MARK & RAELENE O'HALLORAN**  
Funeral Directors AFDA



## Order Your Rubber Stamps

from the  
**"BULOKE TIMES"**  
McCULLOCH STREET, DONALD - 5497 1222  
Range of type to choose from

# Mixed Tennis Fortunes

Birchip was abuzz with tennis players on Saturday with more than 60 players filling all ten courts for the first time in decades.

In a thrilling day of competition, the first-placed Wirrim took on fifth-placed Donald, playing teams of 9 versus 9. Meanwhile Birchip welcomed Charlton in a 6 versus 6 contest.

## Wirrim v Donald Men's

The men's games were intensely fought, with Donald winning the section 59 to 57 games. Donald's Derek and Dawson Hollis got Donald off to a good start in the top match, in an 8-5 victory. Meanwhile, it was Wirrim's Dale Hinkley and Lachlan Barber who secured an 8-6 win against Jesse Higgins and Mark Mortlock. A strong 8-1 win to Richard Reilly and Mark Mortlock gave Donald a strong lead in the top section.

However, Wirrim's bottom men composed of Andy Barber, Jarrod Tyler, Lucas McInerney and Matt Ryan, were in outstanding form, claiming victories in all of their matches. However, an 8-5 win to Andy and Jarrod against Donald's Jacob Bath and Joe Melino, along with a hard-fought tiebreak victory by Andy and Lucas, was not enough to get Wirrim over the line with Donald winning the section by a mere two games.

## Women's

An 8-6 win to Donald's Jasmine Hollis and Macie Mortlock against Fiona Best

and Steph Coffey got Donald off to a strong start in the women's section. However, Wirrim's women responded with Kelly Haslam and Georgie Warne securing an 8-3 victory against Laila and Cherie Reilly. Meanwhile, Steph Coffey and Kellie Matthews achieved the same result against Macie and Laine Mortlock.

In the lower section, games were evenly split. Meghan Noonan and Casey Sim went down 3-8 to Donald's Meaghan King and Jenny Mortlock; meanwhile Meghan Noonan flipped the result to record a victory against Meaghan King and Emma Green with Denley Tyler. It was Wirrim which claimed the section 63-48 games, seeing the points split evenly between the two sides at the afternoon tea break.

## Mixed

Derek and Jasmine Hollis delivered a strong 8-2 win for Donald over Wirrim's Jon and Kelly Haslam. However, dominating performances by Russell Christie and Fiona Best (8-1) and Dale Hinkley and Steph Coffey (8-0) put Wirrim back in the lead. Donald answered with 8-2 victories by Richard Reilly and Laila Reilly, and Mark and Laine Mortlock.

Key wins by Wirrim's Jarrod and Denley Tyler (8-5) and Lucas McInerney and

Des Coffey (8-3) weren't enough to secure the mixed section. Donald sealed the mixed with 8-3 victories by Jacob Bath and Carmel Lowry, and Josh Talty and Emma Green.

Despite Donald winning the men's and mixed sections, Wirrim triumphed overall with 164-156 games, securing the day six points to four and retaining its top ladder position.

## Birchip v Charlton Men's

Charlton's top men – Troy Heenan, Matt McGurk and Wes Jenkyn – were in strong form with Troy and Matt recording an 8-5 win against Birchip's top pairing of Tim McClelland and David Ferrier. Troy and Wes secured an 8-6 win against Tim and Josh Hamilton, however an 8-4 victory to David and Josh evened the score margin.

In the lower section, Blake and Robbie Lee recorded an 8-6 victory over Brian Heenan and Henry Burke, which was followed by a tiebreaker which saw Brian claim victory with Trevor McGurk. Birchip won the section 42-38 games and claimed its first two points of the day.

## Women's

Birchip's women were in dominant form, with De Ferrier, Julie Coffey, and Jo Lee delivering emphatic 8-2, 8-3, and 8-1 wins.

Charlton fought back, as Abby Thompson, Wendy Laffin, and Carmel Fitzpatrick secured tight 8-5, 8-6, and 8-6 victories against Asha Lee, Stacey Hamilton, and Zoya Niall. Despite Charlton's efforts, Birchip took the women's section 41-30.

## Mixed

In yet another close match-up, it was Charlton which narrowly won the mixed section to record its first and only two points of the day. In a highly contested match, Dave and De Ferrier combined well to come out victorious in a

tiebreak against Charlton's Troy Heenan and Jo Southcombe. Meanwhile, Tim McClelland and Jo Lee kept the winning streak alive, 8-6, as did Birchip's Robbie Lee and Julie Coffey.

Charlton had strong pairings in the lower section, with an 8-5 victory to Brian Heenan and Abby Thompson, an 8-3 win to Henry Bourke and Wendy Laffin, and 8-4 success to Trevor McGurk and Carmel Fitzpatrick seeing Charlton win the section 38-36 games.

Birchip emerged victorious overall, winning 119 games to Charlton's 106, moving one position higher on the ladder.

The strong turnout is a positive sign for the North Central tennis teams, with Birchip and Donald fielding many young players, highlighting a bright future for the sport in the region.



• Richard Reilly slams down his serve.



• Matt Rickard prepares his forehand serve.



• Dave Ferrier returns serve, watched on by partner De Ferrier.

## Support for Women and Girls in Sport

Women and girls in the Mallee will find it easier and more enjoyable to play sport and be active as a result of grants with a combined total of over \$5.63 million to 6 organisations selected to receive the funding under the Australian Government's \$200 million Play Our Way Program.

The program is designed to remove barriers, address discrimination and promote equality for women and girls to participate in sport and physical activity, with 166 organisations from across Australia benefiting from the funding.

Minyip Murtoa Football & Netball Club Inc. will receive \$1,992,750 to build female changerooms and upgrade the

safety of their netball courts.

Grooke Community Complex will receive \$1,389,119 to construct multisport court surface with provision for two new netball and three new tennis courts, new facilities and fencing and accessible footpaths.

Kerang Golf Club will receive \$211,813 to build dedicated female amenities and upgrade safety and privacy.

Leitchville Community Sporting Complex Association will use its \$811,287 of funding to build a modular changeroom.

Red Cliffs Golf Club will receive \$474,530.00 to upgrade its female amenities.

This funding will complement the \$55.6 million offered to 124 organisations under Stream 2: Participation and Equipment, and will be offered nationwide, with a focus on facilities for women and girls who face additional barriers to participation. This includes women and girls who have a disability, are First Nations people or from culturally and linguistically diverse communities.

### Keep Abreast with Local Happenings!

Don't forget Your Local Newspaper



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



# Pat's Pals from Past Times

As people far and wide mourn the passing of greatly missed friend and sports therapist, **Pat Allen**, the photograph featured here found its way on to the "Times" editor's desk.

It dates back to the mid-'fifties, when the Donald senior football team was led by captain-coach Jack Roberts, with club president Les Bugge, secretary Des Darcy, and treasurer Jack Craig.

That's Pat at top left, alongside Noel Michael, John Hogan, Don Lemon, Greg Hogan, Lindsay Burke, Fred Pearce, Lindsay

Young, George Wood, Bill Anderson, Stewart Hollis, and president Les Bugge.

In the front row, left to right, are secretary Des Darcy, Robert Kick, Allan Green, Mike Fradd, Jack Roberts, Francis McLoughlan, Lindsay Wood, Reg Boak, and treasurer Jack Craig.

## Wimmera Mallee Cricket Ladders

"A" Grade						
	P	W	L	D	Bye	Pts
Donald Jeffcott .....	9	8	0	0	0	25
Marnoo .....	9	6	2	0	0	19
Birchip .....	9	4	4	0	0	15
St Mary's .....	9	4	4	0	0	11
St. Arnaud .....	9	2	6	0	0	7
Southern Mallee .....	9	0	7	0	0	1

"B" Grade						
	P	W	L	D	Bye	Pts
Charlton .....	9	7	1	0	0	23
Watchem .....	9	5	3	0	0	17
Donald Jeffcott .....	9	6	2	0	0	17
Southern Mallee .....	9	2	4	0	0	11
St. Mary's .....	9	1	5	0	0	7
Birchip .....	9	0	5	0	0	3

### 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.

## North-Central Pennant Bowls

This Week's Selected Club Teams



### DIVISION ONE

Round 10, Saturday, December 14

St. Arnaud Country Club v. St. Arnaud

ST. ARNAUD COUNTRY CLUB

F. Rodger, L. Lynch, J. Nevill, J. Abbott (s)  
D. Moulday, R. Pole, T. McDonald, W. Rodger (s)  
B. Medlyn, D. Mullins, S. Elliott, M. Esmore (s)  
Cards: T. McDonald. Manager: S. Elliot

ST. ARNAUD

Team not available

Charlton v. Donald

CHARLTON

J. Cox, B. Laffin, D. Gretgrix, K. North (s)  
M. Hamley, W. Southwell, M. O'Brien, Willey (s)  
L. Southwell, P. Watts, J. Headon, S. Perry (s)  
Manager: K. Willey

DONALD

J. Collins, E. Adams, A. Adamson, H. Wingfield (s)  
I. McEwen, J. Howley, L. Morgan, N. Hollis (s)  
J. Meyer, T. Gravestocks, L. Kelly, B. Hegarty (s)  
Emergency: D. Romeo.

Cars: Hegarty, Hollis, Adamson. Depart 12.15 p.m.

Wedderburn v. Boort

Teams not available

Wycheproof v. Donald Golf

WYCHEPROOF

Team not available

DONALD GOLF

W. Livingston, S. O'Shea, G. Geddes, D. Pettifer (s)  
R. Adams, J. Hollis, R. Reseigh, G. Rigby (s)  
G. Stopps, B. Murray, S. Hollis, P. Hibberd (s)  
Cars: B. Murray, W. Livingston, J. Hollis.

### DIVISION TWO

Round 10, Saturday, December 14

St. Arnaud Country Club v. St. Arnaud

ST. ARNAUD COUNTRY CLUB

L. Watkins, P. Mullins, P. Elliott, C. Webb (s)  
T. Coloe, M. Pole, N. Robinson, A. Bond (s)  
G. White, D. McAllister, K. Meade, J. Needs (s)  
Cards: G. White. Manager: J. Needs

ST. ARNAUD

Team not available

Charlton v. Donald

CHARLTON

Forfeit, not enough players available

DONALD

J. Anderson, C. Perry, M. Quick, D. Romeo (s)

A. McEwen, S. Robertson, M. McEwen, B. Milne (s)

K. Anderson, P. Wyllie, R. Gravestocks, T. Farrer (s)

Cars: T. Farrer, D. Romeo, B. Milne.

Depart: 12.15 p.m.

Wedderburn v. Boort

Teams not available

Wycheproof v. Donald Golf

WYCHEPROOF

Team not available

DONALD GOLF

B. Bayles, G. Bowles, E. Brasier, B. Dixon (s)

B. Brasier, J. Slater, A. Dionosopolous, L. Borden (s)

C. Stopps, M. Raynes, M. Frank, G. Wood (s)

Cars: Dionosopolous, Frank, Borden.

Emergency: S. Evans.

LET'S CLEAN UP

2025

# AUSTRALIA



JOIN OUR  
**BIGGEST  
EVER  
CLEAN UP**  
SUNDAY 2 MARCH



REGISTER NOW  
[CLEANUP.ORG.AU](https://CLEANUP.ORG.AU)



### Support services

#### Adult

Lifeline: 13 11 14 | Text 0477 13 11 14  
[lifeline.org.au](https://lifeline.org.au)

Suicide Call Back Service: 1300 659 467  
[suicidecallbackservice.org.au](https://suicidecallbackservice.org.au)

Beyond Blue: 1300 224 636  
[beyondblue.org.au/forums](https://beyondblue.org.au/forums)

MensLine Australia: 1300 789 978  
[mensline.org.au](https://mensline.org.au)

StandBy Support After Suicide  
1300 727 247

#### Youth

Kids Helpline: 1800 551 800  
[kidshelpline.com.au](https://kidshelpline.com.au)

headspace: 1800 650 890  
[headspace.org.au](https://headspace.org.au)

ReachOut: [ReachOut.com](https://ReachOut.com)

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander: [13YARN.org.au](https://13YARN.org.au) or 13 92 76

Lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, and/or intersex: 1800 184 527 [qlife.org.au](https://qlife.org.au)

Culturally and linguistically diverse: [embracementalhealth.org.au](https://embracementalhealth.org.au)

#### Other resources

Head to Health: mental health portal  
[headtohealth.gov.au](https://headtohealth.gov.au)

Life in Mind: suicide prevention portal  
[lifeinmindaustralia.com.au](https://lifeinmindaustralia.com.au)

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

## Bowls Leaders Consolidate

Wycheproof, Donald Golf and Wedderburn secured comfortable round nine wins against Boort, Donald and St. Arnaud respectively, as North Central midweek pennant approaches the Festive Season break, with round 10 to be contested next Tuesday, December 17, followed by round 11 on Tuesday, January 14.

Wedderburn closed the gap between itself and second placed Donald Golf with a commanding 48-shot victory over the visiting St. Arnaud, with wins by Andrew Caserta by 12 shots over Phil McRae, Laurie Witham by 6 shots over Allan Welsh and Alan Jackson's 30-shot drubbing of Lloyd Goddard securing the home team all 12 points and boosting its percentage.

Ladder leader Wycheproof also enjoyed a comfortable victory, at Boort's expense, the 39-shot margin established by Jason McKay's 10-shot win over Thelma Moresi, Jono Grylls's 19-shot victory over John Gibson and Dale Groves's 10-shot win over Wayne Keenan, the visiting Wyche. pocketing all 12 points.

Donald Golf had to work hard for its 10-shot win over cross town rival Donald, which salvaged 1 point when Hunter Wingfield drew with Peter Hibberd.

On the adjoining rinks, Geoff Rigby accounted for Beryl Milne by 8 shots, and Shane O'Shea's rink emerged with a 2-shot win over Lindy Morgan's crew, in a game in which the visitors led until late in the contest.

Charlton enjoyed its day out at St. Arnaud Country Club, picking up a 6-shot win and bagging 10 points to 2 after Kevin Willey's lot downed Des Moulday by 7 shots and Lynne Southwell accounted for Patricia Goode by 11 shots.

Heather Esmore salvaged 2 points for the host club after defeating Ken North by 12 shots, but the margin was not enough to influence the overall result.

### Details:

Wedderburn 93-12 d. St. Arnaud 45-0.

Colin Mills, Joan Murnane, Ruth Hall, Andrew Caserta (s) 29 d. Andrea Tyler, Thomas Amos, Marie Hufer, Phil McRae (s) 17.

Robert Ashley, Sandra Standfield, Amy Roberts, Laurie Witham (s) 24 d. Anne McNally, Diane Ostarcevic, Laurence Goodwin, Allan Welsh (s) 18.

Helen Stephenson, Judy Matthews, Sandra Steel, Alan Jackson (s) 40 d. Heather Stevenson, Margaret McIntyre, Sandra McIntyre, Lloyd Goddard (s) 10.

Boort 48-0 lost to Wycheproof 87-12.

Sarah Polack, Gillian Tweddle, Joan Earl, Thelma Moresi (s) 17 lost to Des Nichols, Shirley McKenna, Matt Nicholls, Jason McKay (s) 27.

Tania Noles, Yvonne Cashen, Dorothy Gibson, John Gibson (s) 11 lost to Lorraine Milburn, Vince Grant, Jeannie Grylls, Jono Grylls (s) 30.

Glenda Charles, Jo Maxted, Phyl Baker, Wayne Keenan (s) 20 lost to Cheryl Rayes, Lynette Nicholls, Alan Jones, Dale Groves (s) 30.

Donald Golf 75-11 d. Donald 65-1.

Sue Donnellon, Merylyn Frank, Joyce Hollis, Geoff Rigby (s) 30 d. Joan Wood, Marion McEwen, Brenda Brennan, Beryl Milne (s) 22.

Corozon Stopps, Shirley Evans, Brenda Dixon, Shane O'Shea (s) 21 d. Peter Wyllie, Beth Hollis, Bill Hegarty, Lindy Morgan (s) 19.

Beris Jones, Enid Brasier, Bill Livingston, Peter Hibberd (s) 24 drew with Margaret



• Donald bowler Beryl Milne delivers her bowl in her game against Geoff Rigby. Geoff's team was successful by 8 shots.

Quick, Alison McEwen, Ev Adams, Hunter Wingfield (s).

St. Arnaud Country Club 76-2 lost to Charlton 82-10.

Faye Rodger, Leigh Abbott, Lyn Moulday, Des Moulday (s) 20 lost to Wayne Southwell, Eily Rosewall, John Headon, Kevin Willey (s) 27.

Dianne Fullarton, Amanda Marland, Rhonda Pole, Heather Esmore (s) 34 d. Jeff Cox, Dough Gretgrix, Dale McCallum, Ken North (s) 22.

Yvonne Templar, Steven Atkinson, Colleen Bond, Patricia Goode (s) 22 lost to Wendy Laffin, Richard Porter, Michael O'Brien, Lynne Southwell (s) 33.

### MIDWEEK PENNANT BOWLS

#### Positions of Teams, after round 5

	P	W	L	D	Bye	F	A	SD	%	Pts
Wycheproof	9	8	1	0	0	711	525	186	135	89
Donald Golf	9	6	3	0	0	672	584	88	115	70
Wedderburn	9	5	4	0	0	710	564	146	126	64
Boort	9	5	4	0	0	587	646	-59	91	54
St. Arnaud	9	4	5	0	0	575	661	-86	87	47
Charlton	9	4	5	0	0	610	607	3	99	49
St. Arnaud Country Club	9	2	7	0	0	582	710	-128	80	33



• Skippers Lindy Morgan, Beryl Milne, Geoff Rigby and Shane O'Shea waiting for their teams bowls to arrive. Only 10 shots separated the two local teams at the end of play, with Donald Golf taking it home.



• Margaret Quick delivers her bowl. Watching on is Enid Brasier and Alison McEwen. As the score indicates this was a close game, it even ended in a draw!