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The Buloke Times

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

Charlton Action For World Development: Anniversary Marks a Bitter-Sweet Milestone

(By Jenny Pollard)

A half century of international support was celebrated by the Charlton Action for World Development (AWD) Group last Friday night with the milestone occasion also bringing a bitter-sweet end to the small, but passionate entourage.

Almost 70 guests enjoyed the alfresco buffet and outdoor dining at the Vale of Avoca where visitors from across the state had been invited to gather, reminisce and re-connect as a review of the group's outreach to those in need was celebrated.

Including former guest speakers, foundation members and many supporters, the evening was a testament to the desire to create tangible benefits and build understanding about places and people whose lives, cultures and situations were so different to the Charlton locale.

Visitors mingled in the Vale's landscaped outdoor setting where shady umbrellas and luscious vine-covered

arches created a perfect atmosphere for drinks, nibbles and conversation on the warm summer evening.

Areas of Focus

The ethos of Action for World Development cites two main areas of focus which the organisation strove to adhere to. Firstly, education – about ourselves, about the needs of people in developing countries and those of our First Nations people in Australia. It also worked to form links with people on the ground and those who've visited and worked there, and to raise community awareness about the need to support them.

Secondly, fundraising – to be able to give financial support to projects where the peo-

ple in situ are directly involved.

A general welcome by AWD president, Val Bourke, opened proceedings as she thanked many of the visitors for travelling long distances to be a part of this tribute occasion.

Guest speaker introductions followed, with family members sharing insights to their relatives' involvement with the group and how their input helped to shape the direction of AWD.

Beginning with the origins, Peter Whykes – at whose Wooroonook home the first gathering took place in 1974 – revealed it began as an interfaith discussion group with a focus on justice issues.

"The meeting was held in

• Continued on page 2.



• A perfect outdoor setting at the Vale of Avoca made a stunning backdrop for the cutting of the 50th Anniversary cake by Catherine Morton (left) and Jo Russell (right).



• Four brave men at the top of the new Optus tower.

Sky-High Scaffolding

It may not be everyone's ideal place to be spending time, but for this fearless foursome it was just another day on the job.

• There are more details on their lofty labouring on page 3 of today's "Buloke Times".

Surgical Robot Appeal Raises Thousands: Lions and Friends Dig Deep

The Lions Club of Charlton (A79) and Friends da Vinci Surgical Robot Appeal has raised the magnificent total of \$65,535.89 with donations coming from a broad area along the Calder Highway as well as Donald and St Arnaud (on the Sunraysia Highway).

This amount includes a Grant from the Australian Lions Foundation (ALF) of \$15,000 from their grant fund which became possible with the agreement of the Bendigo Base Hospital and the St John of God Hospital electing to work together in order to get this valuable piece of equipment into the Bendigo Health Care mix, ensuing that the machine will benefit both Public and Private Health Care patients alike.

Charlton Lions president Lion John Headon said: "The Club is extremely grateful to the ALF Grants team and the 201V1-4 District executive for helping us to make this possible. It really adds a significant input to the Club's efforts with the Appeal. "It also extends a huge thanks to the North West Calder communities, and Donald and St Arnaud, for getting behind and supporting the Appeal to bring new technology to our health area that will make Surgical

Robot operations possible for the people in our area."

Lion John explained that the district Service Clubs including the Lions Clubs of Charlton, Donald, Inglewood, St Arnaud, Wedderburn and Wycheproof, Retro (the former Charlton Rotary Club), OASIS and the St Arnaud Rotary Club contributed a grand total of \$17,016.

Other Charlton organizations such as the Charlton Bowling Club, the Charlton Club, the Men's Shed, the Travellers Rest Committee, Charlton Arts, the Skita Grimshaw Motor Cycle Touring Club, the Charlton Golf Club, Charlton Football Club, the Opp. Shop, the Charlton RSL, the Uniting Church, the NC Garden Club, CWA, Friends of EWSHS, and North Central Financial Services made a combined total contribution of \$23,500 and individual donations including the Noonan Family Trust, Trade Travel and the Simon Mulqueen Funerals totalled

\$10,110. The balance \$109 is bank interest on the account.

Lion John said: "The money has now been forwarded to the St John of God Foundation and we understand that the Machine has been purchased and is in Bendigo where the hospital will be setting it up for doctor training in January and February.

"We also understand that it is planned that Prof. Janelle Brennan, a Bendigo based Urological Surgeon, to perform the first operation using the Surgical Robot in March 2025; a very successful conclusion to a very gratifying Project for both the Club and the broader Bendigo and District Health community.

"The Club members all gave the project their best efforts, but I need to acknowledge the extra work of Lion Peter Watts who played a pivotal role in getting donations and in particularly our success in getting the ALF Grant approved."

Anniversary Marks a Bitter-Sweet Milestone

• Continued from page 1.

our lounge-room,” said Peter. “I don’t think this little group knew what was ahead of them, but the last fifty years have been quite an achievement, so congratulations!”

First Meeting

Noreen Ryan then added a comprehensive coverage including the first AWD meeting held at the Uniting Church Hall on a Sunday evening in early 1974 with the following in attendance: President, Ray Schmitt, secretary, Bill Round, treasurer, Mary Walklate, with members John Powell, Patricia Spain, Kath Morton, Bea MacDonald, Elsa Paterson, Jim and Rita Paterson, Peter and Bernice Whykes, Nola Cossar, Ian and Jan Bish, Pam Round and Barb Hannah listed.

Jo Russell joined in 1981, encouraging the instigation of the Art Show which endured as a major event for the group until the early 1990s. Fundraising through casserole

luncheons, progressive dinners and film nights brought recollections of raising money for the improvement of education in India, Vietnam and Northern Australia.

Speaker

Speaker Ian McClelland then took the microphone, speaking on behalf of his brother Warwick who had initially been involved with Community Aid Abroad and then became an integral part of Charlton’s AWD. “I’m really here to congratulate you tonight,” said Ian. “In a sense, aren’t you lucky that you have been able to help people, but also to educate yourselves at the same time? Also, the chance of being able to mix with people involved in some of these projects, I’m sure has been good for both of you. I’d like to say ‘thank you’ for such dedicated and interested people.”

Recognition

Recognition of the first AWD Life Membership recipient, Jim Paterson, was then

presented by his daughters Jo Brown and Margaret Hinks. “We both felt it was important to honour our parents for the work they gave to AWD over the years,” said Jo. Speaking passionately about the pride Jim felt for his Life Membership – conferred just days before his passing – they presented a portrait of a man who worked behind the scenes getting things done and doing what was needed. A life dedicated to service in the Army, farming, and as background support in many a community organisation, Jim’s sporting highlights (football Hall of Fame achievements 1982), and being made Life Governor of the Charlton Hospital following a 42-year stint on the committee, were standouts. Jim’s deep association with the Uniting Church was the pathway by which his involvement with AWD began.

Foundation Member

Acknowledgement of foundation member Kath

Morton was also presented by her daughters, Catherine Morton and Liz Harrison. Also, an AWD Life Member, Kath was always interested in other cultures and faiths, aware that this knowledge helps enrich the understanding of the world. From passionate activism, involvement in meetings, fundraising events, seminars and workshops – “there was always AWD paperwork, newsletters, meeting minutes, and her own personal notes on the kitchen bench,” said Catherine. A passion for world cuisines and folk music from many cultures was amongst Kath’s great interests, and following a move to Ballarat, her associations through AWD provided the platform by which she could continue to pursue her interest in world issues – in particular support for refugees and asylum seekers.

“Kath’s membership of, and participation in, the Charlton AWD Group was an important part of her life and in the lives of her family members,” said Catherine. In an emotional conclusion, she

said, “The legacy of Kath’s passions can be seen through the lens of her children and her grandchildren. Congratulations!”

Partnership

Oxfam representative, Graham Romanes (accompanied by his wife Glenyys) spoke appreciatively of the partnership between AWD and Community Aid Abroad (now Oxfam), saying it was a reminder of the way in which communities build their strength – “through a common zeal for justice and a need to work together to bring about real change. This has been a wonderful effort for fifty years,” said Graham. “It will be a sad day to see Charlton AWD go, but a wonderful opportunity to remember all things which have happened over the past fifty years.”

Jo Russell then read out a number of letters and emails from the following: foundation member, Mary Walklate, former McCauley College teacher, Genevieve Taheny; journalist Lynne Cossar, Lyn Morgain from Oxfam, and from Community Aid worker,

Augustine from India. Appreciation, gratitude and praise were spread across the well-wishers’ correspondence, with this timely quote from Genevieve perfectly summing up group’s work: “This country town – so in tune with the world – and doing something about it!”

Thanks

As the formalities concluded, Jo expressed thanks to all who attended, acknowledging Josie Ryan for the exquisitely designed invitation card, Kaylene Cossar for an upcoming project, Bernice Kenny for creating the celebration cake and the Vale of Avoca for their hospitality.

Prior to the cutting of the 50th anniversary cake, Jo announced that the Charlton AWD funds would be channelled into the Bodhgaya School – a multi-faith education centre in one of the poorest states in India.

As the evening wound to a close a group photo of all attendees was taken to mark the occasion.

The AWD raffle was won by James Russell.



• Charlton Action for World Development foundation members John Powel (right) and Noreen Ryan (centre) are joined by current President, Val Bourke (second right), AWD member Jo Russell (second left) and family spokesperson Ian McClelland (left) at the 50th Anniversary celebration and closure of AWD last Friday night. Mary Walklate, who was an apology for the evening, is another of the Group’s foundation members.



• A group photo of attendees records the significant occasion for posterity.

Letters to the Editor

An Open Letter

(The Editor, “The Times”)

Dear Sir. – Today, I visited one of our local Buloke businesses — a place many of us know — and the usually bubbly, cheerful person behind the counter seemed different. The smile was subdued, the energy noticeably dimmed.

As we chatted, they confided in me, hesitating at first, but then the words spilled out. They’re considering selling up but wish someone could shop-sit for a while, just to gather their thoughts.

The time, the pressure, and the sheer emotional toll of running their business have become too much. They’re spent. This person, a tireless giver to our community, is heartbroken.

Despite their efforts to stock the shelves with a variety of goods — to offer you and me the convenience of

shopping locally — the sales simply aren’t there.

It struck me hard. This is someone who has worked tirelessly to ensure we have access to what we need, sparing us the trip out of town.

They’ve gone out of their way to serve us, often at a cost to themselves. Yet, when it’s time for us to shop, too often we choose elsewhere.

So today, I want to share this story with you — not to blame, but to inspire. As we step into the Christmas season, a time of giving and gratitude, let’s think about how we can give back to those who support us every day.

Imagine the joy on their faces when they see familiar neighbours, friends, and families walk through their doors. Imagine how much it would mean for them to know that their hard work and sacrifices are valued.

This Christmas, why not make it a point to shop locally in Buloke? Pop out to pick up a gift, or grab that last-minute stocking filler.

Consider hosting a shopping day with friends to explore local treasures over the holidays you may not have noticed before. Stop by and grab a coffee or a treat, even if it’s just to say hello. Your small gestures could make a big difference.

When we choose to shop locally, we’re not just making a purchase — we’re investing in the future of our towns. We’re helping to ensure that these businesses — these lifelines of our community — are still here tomorrow.

This Christmas, let’s bring joy not just to those we gift, but to the faces of our local business owners.

Together, let’s show them how much we value all they

do for us. When one of us thrives, we all do.

To the business owner, if you are reading this letter — I’m keeping my promise — know how important you are to all of us. Have a Merry Christmas. Take care.

From an anonymous writer, Name and address supplied.

Congratulations

(The Editor, “The Times”)

Dear Sir. – I would like to congratulate the region’s Year 12 students as they receive their VCE results. You are to be commended on your hard work and commitment to your studies, supported by your teachers, families and friends alike.

Completing your VCE or VCAL is a major achievement.

Our local students continue to show reward for their

efforts and in particular, I note the achievements of those Birchip P-12 and Tyrrell College students who achieved outstanding study scores in Agriculture and Horticulture Studies.

While we celebrate results, don’t be too disappointed if they are not what you were hoping for. If your score is not what you’d hoped, remember that there are plenty of opportunities and pathways to get where you want to go. You don’t need to adjust your

goals, just your journey.

You’ll look back on this year — maybe now, maybe years from now — and realise that what you learned was more than English or economics. You learned just how determined you really are. Just how strong you could be.

And that’s something to be very proud of.

I wish you all the best in your future endeavours. The sky is the limit!

Jade Benham MP

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Special Service Recognised

The tireless dedication and extraordinary contributions of the late Kay Hogan and Dorothy Jolly to the Birchip Hospital have been officially documented with the presentation of certificates of recognition to their families.

These honours were bestowed by the Birchip Friends of EWHS (formerly the Birchip Hospital Auxiliary), at the Birchip Flower Show back in October to acknowledge their decades of selfless service.

Kay Hogan

Kay's involvement with the Birchip Hospital Auxiliary began in the 1980s, marking the start of a long and impactful journey. She first served as president from 1994 to 1996 and again from 1999 to 2010. Outside of her presidential terms, Kay took on the role of treasurer, a position she held with unwavering commitment until 2018.

Kay's vision and leadership were instrumental in the auxiliary's acquisition of the "Op Shop" in 2013, a venture that significantly bolstered the

group's fundraising efforts. She worked as a volunteer in the shop until 2023.

Her dedication extended to coercing her family into supporting the auxiliary's fundraising efforts such as the flower show and renovations at the Op Shop. Son, Darren, has become instrumental in the Murray to Moyne, another of the auxiliary's major fundraising efforts.

Kay's contributions left an indelible mark on the auxiliary and her work has ensured thousands of dollars have been re-invested in improving the facilities at the Birchip campus of EWHS for patients, residents and staff.

Dorothy Jolly

Dorothy's remarkable legacy began with a chance conversation with her golfing friend, Janice Rickard, which

led to the opening of Seek 'n' See (Opportunity Shop) in the Old Shamrock Hotel in 1987.

Dorothy managed and operated the shop for over 27 years, with all profits donated to the Birchip Hospital Auxiliary. She meticulously handled administrative tasks, volunteered two days a week, and undertook countless hours of washing, ironing, and sorting clothing for the shop.

Seek 'n' See became more than a store under Dorothy's care; it was a community hub where she provided support and counsel to countless families and individuals.

Dorothy's generosity knew no bounds, with annual donations of at least \$1,000 to the Birchip Bush Nursing Hospital and later the Friends of EWHS Birchip Campus, amounting to approximately \$30,000 over the years.

She stepped down as owner and volunteer manager of Seek 'n' See in 2014 at the age of 85, leaving behind a legacy of kindness and community spirit.

Beyond her work with Seek 'n' See, Dorothy was deeply involved with Wirrim Lodge Nursing Home, where she had served on the Residents' Committee since its inception. She brought joy and cheer to residents during her visits and provided clothing at no cost to those in need.

Dorothy's affiliation with the Birchip Hospital spanned decades, including her service on the Birchip Bush Nursing Hospital Committee and later the local Birchip Advisory Group after the hospital's amalgamation with EWHS in 2000.

The recognition of Kay Hogan and Dorothy Jolly highlights their unparalleled commitment to improving the facilities and environment for the staff and residents at the Birchip Hospital. Their legacies continue to inspire, and their contributions will be remembered for generations to come.



• The late Mrs Dorothy Jolly.



• Tower going up near Industry Drive looking toward the Mad Mile.

Towering, but Not with Power Lines

As debate rages over the impending installation of elevated power lines across thousands of kilometres of eastern Australia, a "friendlier" tower appeared in Donald at the end of last week.

This one is 60 metres tall, and is located on an Industry Drive block on Donald's Industrial Estate.

It's the new Optus tower, which will replace the one which for years has stood in the town.

These new Optus towers are built by the Sydney-based Indara Corporation, which leases them to end-users. Donald's old structure is due to be decommissioned.



• Hogan family accepting award on behalf of Kay: Kaise Matheson, Blair Hogan, Georgia Hogan, Will Hogan, Brenten Hogan, Cade Hogan, Darren (Darkie) Hogan, Mervyn (Sauce) Hogan, Jye Hogan, Veronica Hogan, Samuel Hogan, Rodney Hogan.

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

- Dec. 17, Geordie Smith
- Dec. 17, Toby Smith
- Dec. 18, Dion Hawkes
- Dec. 23, Brian Downes

Darrell Lea Fine Chocolates

JOHN SANDS

If you know someone celebrating a special anniversary, let us know at **Donald Newsagency & Emporium**
For all your Greeting Cards, Wraps, Ribbons and Stationery needs.
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Deadlines:— Tuesday's Issue: Display advertisements (2 or more columns), 3 p.m. Friday prior.
Friday's Issue: by 3 p.m. Wednesday prior.

BIRCHIP P-12 SCHOOL

Presentation Night

TUESDAY 17TH DECEMBER
7:30PM AT THE BIRCHIP PUBLIC HALL

DEATH FLETCHER.—
Heather Joy
13/09/1948 – 13/12/2024
Passed away peacefully at Warracknabeal Hospital.

Much loved wife of Noel. Loving mother and mother-in-law of Shane and Lisa, Alison and Dave. Adored Nan of James, Chris and Hayley; Tristan and Josh and Great-grandmother of Dominic and Lucas.

In our minds and hearts she will stay forever.

FUNERAL FLETCHER.—
An Anglican service for the life of Heather Joy Fletcher will be held at St Mary's Catholic Church, 2 Corack Rd, Birchip on Friday, December 20, at 2 p.m. Burial will follow at the Birchip Lawn Cemetery.

A tribute can be left on our website: kellyfuneralsbirchip.com.au

Mark and Raelene O'Halloran
KELLY FUNERALS BIRCHIP
Inc. 
5492 2547

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

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.

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.

Donald Bingo Breakup

Thursday, December 19

Eyes down 7.30 p.m.
DONALD GOLF CLUB

Big money 10 x \$100 if sufficient tickets sold.
Hope to see you there!

Bingo will resume January 16, 2025

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See "Paddington in Peru" before the 1 January release date!

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Sun 22 Dec 2pm
No screening Tue 24 Dec

Seasons Greetings
Holiday closure: 23 December to 17 January
Screenings resume: Sat 18 January

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WIN \$10,000 - make this Christmas Merry

NOTICE

Friday 20th December

Woods Street will be closed to Traffic from 3pm to 9pm for the Christmas Street Party Draw Night

Closure is from Hammill Street to Blair Street

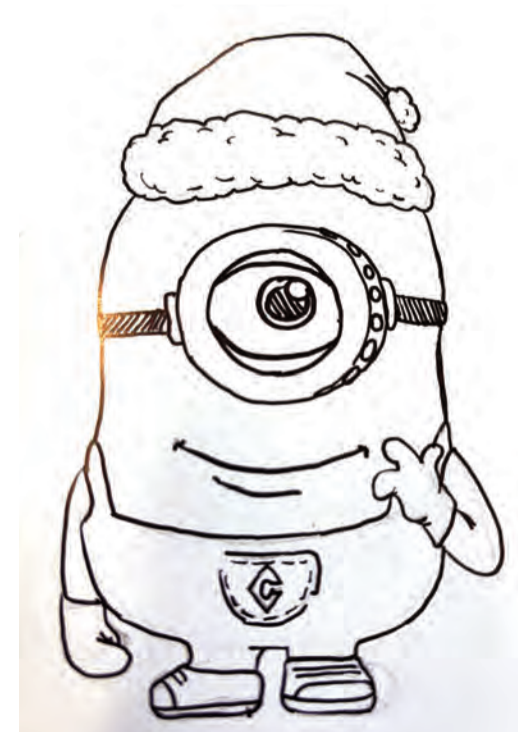
Parking is Available behind the Mall, IGA Carpark, McCulloch St Carpark and Side Streets

"Times" Crossword

QUICK PUZZLE NO. 8159 - SOLUTIONS

Across - 6, Hindustani. 8, Talk. 9, Calf. 10, Infer. 11, Elan. 12, Descended. 16, Arbitrate. 20, Plus. 22, Kudos. 23, Idea. 24, Anti. 25, Excellence.

Down - 1, Pirate. 2, Edifice. 3, Assign. 4, Baffle. 5, Mitre. 7, Bleak. 13, Dab. 14, Cruiser. 15, Flank. 17, Reduce. 18, Insult. 19, Trench. 21, Skier.



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A Cheaper, Cleaner, More Consistent Energy Plan

It will be 44 per cent cheaper to reach a net zero energy grid under the Coalition, Member for Mallee Dr Anne Webster said at the weekend, as Frontier Economics analysis showed the Coalition's approach to energy policy - including nuclear power - will cost \$263 billion compared to Labor's nearly \$600 billion renewables-only plan.

"Australians face soaring energy costs, record levels of hardship, small business insolvencies, and growing un-

certainty under Labor's renewables-only energy plan," Dr Webster said.

"Labor's energy plan

comes at five times the cost Australians were initially promised. This excessive burden is already being felt by Mallee families and businesses, with energy bills rising by up to 52 per cent and more than 25,000 businesses forced to close their doors in part due to skyrocketing energy costs.

Contrast

"In contrast, the Coalition's approach integrates

zero-emissions nuclear energy alongside renewables and gas, delivering a total system cost significantly lower than Labor's. This means reduced power bills for households, lower operating costs for small businesses, and a stronger, more resilient economy.

"The Prime Minister promised Australians a \$275 cut to their power bills, but instead, families are paying up to \$1,000 more under Labor's costly and chaotic energy policies.

Cost

"Labor's 'renewables-only' experiment is costing Australians five times more than originally promised, driving energy prices higher and small businesses to the brink.

"Over 25,000 small businesses have already closed, and families are entering hardship arrangements with their energy providers at the rate of 560 per week. Australians can't afford Labor's costly energy policies."

Under the Coalition's plan, Australia will meet net zero emissions by 2050 - one year earlier than Labor - while generating fewer emissions beyond 2050. Under Anthony Albanese, emissions are

higher now than when the Coalition left office.

"By avoiding Labor's unnecessary overdevelopment on pristine landscapes and farmland, the Coalition ensures a more sustainable and responsible shift from coal to zero emissions nuclear," Dr Webster said.

Labor's plan will see 90 per cent of Australia's 24/7 baseload power forced out of the system by 2034, leaving the grid vulnerable to blackouts and instability.

In contrast, the Coalition's approach ensures retiring coal plants are replaced with reliable, zero-emissions nuclear energy, supported by renewables, gas, and storage - not



• Dr. Anne Webster.

relying solely on a weather-dependent energy source.

By 2050, the Coalition plan will deliver up to 14 GW of nuclear energy, guaranteeing consistent and stable electricity for all Australians.

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Advance Notice

Donald & District Community Bank

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

CLOSING - 25th Dec, reopening 6th Jan

Bendigo Bank

Christmas Deadlines

Please be advised that the final issue of the "Buloke Times" for 2024 will be published on Tuesday, December 24.

Advertisements to publish Christmas greetings and/or changes to business hours over the holiday period are traditionally placed in this final issue. The deadlines for advertisements and news items have been brought forward to enable earlier printing as detailed below:

Advertising: Display, 4 p.m., Thursday, December 19; Classified, 12 noon, Friday, December 20.

News articles: 12 noon, Wednesday, December 18.

Please note: The "Buloke Times" will resume after a short break, with its first edition Tuesday, January 21, 2025.

On behalf of all at "The Times", thank-you for your continued support and contributions over the past 12 months. We wish you and your family a very merry Christmas and a healthy and prosperous new year.



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Lucky Shoppers Win Birchip Big Bucks

• Simone Christie drawing CWA raffle winners with Wirrim CWA members Val Lee, Connely Ryan, Maya Moloney and Forum representative Emily Noonan.



The drawing of the Birchip Big Bucks bonanza at the Community Christmas Party on Sunday brought Christmas cheer to loyal customers, who now have Birchip Big Bucks vouchers and prizes to use before Christmas.

This year, the Birchip Big Bucks Christmas draw was organised by Birchip Forum members Emily Noonan and Carol Reid, with administration support from Simone Christie at the Birchip Neighbourhood House.

Twenty participating businesses generously contributed prizes and cash valued at over \$3,500, which were awarded to lucky shoppers who had placed their Bauble Cards in the box in the newsagency or had been added by participating traders.

Five Birchip calendars were awarded to people in the crowd who found the lucky tickets in a fun twist organised by Emily Noonan at the Birchip Christmas party.

The draw wrapped up a fun day of activities for local community members and their visitors.

Winners of the vouchers purchased from participating business by Birchip Forum from the Big Bucks donations:

Kincrome Toolkit Value \$540 (donated by O'Connors): Russell Christie

5X \$100 Kawaii Kids Vouchers: Peter Doran, Georgie Warne, Judith Horton, Henry Doyle, Ros McCallum

\$250 YBS Ag Voucher: Cameron Ferrier

5X \$100 Birchip IGA Vouchers: Lachlan Barber, Garry Quirk, Noel Acreman, Neil Davis, Jayden Noonan

10X \$25 Sharps Bakery Vouchers: Val Ryan, Mark Bowen, Rodney Bennett, Sami Mitchell, Leo Ryan, Jackie Tierney, Owen Reid, Paul G, Leah Connelly, Christian Hogan,

\$100 YBS Ag Voucher: Rosalie Gould.

\$100 Mallee Shearing Shed Voucher: Denise Schier

\$250 O'Connors Birchip Voucher: Kate Boyle.

1 X \$50, 2X \$40 and 5 X \$20 Birchip Newsagency Voucher: Glenys Rickard, Woody, Ray Winkleman, Ken Tierney, Beryl Fietz, Joshua Hamilton, Sharee Dobson, Tony Ryan.

\$50 Birchip Post Office Voucher: Peg Hogan.

\$50 Mallee Branded Voucher: Alanna Davidson.

5 X Birchip Community Calendars (lucky spot winners): Charlie McAuliffe, Jacinta Bourke, Britney Robinson, Phoebe Tyler, Phoebe Tyler.

Mallee Shearing Shed Gift Pack: Beryl Fietz.

2 X \$50 Relish a Mallee Moment Voucher: John, Michael Foot.

2 X \$75 Central Mallee Osteopathy Vouchers: Stacey Hamilton, "Woody".

Mallee Landscape Chinese Elm: Michael Kujath.

Wirrim CWA: Kate Milne, Carol Reid, Helen Barber, Kate Milne.

If you haven't received your winning voucher please call at the Birchip Neighbourhood House or contact Emily Noonan. If you are a local trader and receive a voucher, please remember to pass it on to the Birchip Neighbourhood House so they can reimburse your business for the value of the voucher.

Community Update Buloke.

Fire Prevention Inspections

With the recent rain, Council is conducting another round of Fire Prevention Inspections to ensure our community remains safe by identifying and addressing potential fire hazards.

Fire safety is a shared responsibility, and we all have a role to play in protecting our community. If a fire hazard is identified on your property, Council will issue a Fire Prevention Notice as a friendly reminder of the steps needed and the timeframe to address them. We'll follow up to ensure the hazard has been taken care of. It's just a gentle tap on the shoulder to help us all stay safe together!

Wrap It Up And Remix

Plastic festive wrapping 'paper' is a recycling no-no. It disrupts the recycling process, so be sure to dispose of it in your rubbish bin. Why not take it a step further and give a gift to the environment? Choose recyclable materials for wrapping your presents instead. Not only will you help reduce landfill, but you'll also save on the additional costs of removing contaminants from recycled materials, ensuring they can re-enter the circular economy—all while making a meaningful difference.

Young Job Hunters

Job hunting and interview prep getting you down?

Don't despair! YouthNav is the helping hand you need to support you find and get the job you want.

Packed with useful tips tailored to young people for writing a resume, getting to and from work, and saving your hard-earned cash, YouthNav is here to prepare you for your future.

The best bit? YouthNav is co-designed by young people to help young job seekers just like you! Visit: www.youthcentral.vic.gov.au/youthnav

Early Morning Swim

Starting this week, these pools are open for free early morning swim sessions for the public:

Birchip:	Wednesday and Friday (6:30am - 8:00am)
Charlton:	Tuesday and Thursday (6:30am - 8:00am)
Donald:	Monday and Thursday (6:30am - 8:00am)
Wycheproof:	Tuesday and Thursday (6.30am - 8.00am)



Facilitated by: In partnership with: This program is funded through the Australian and Victorian Government's Community Recovery Trade Program.

Creative Minds In Action

Our Men's sheds have turned a simple idea into a thriving side hustle!

Starting with decorated bird boxes, the Donald crew is now crafting custom pieces on demand and they're even exploring a new line a spin off - handmade mailboxes!

What an inspiring way to combine creativity, craftsmanship and community spirit!

Got a project or idea you've been dreaming about? Join these FREE 3 online workshops, to kickstart your idea or bring your project to life. Learn how to structure your project, find support and get people involved.

Sign up now and take the first step toward turning your ideas into action!

Don't wait-book your spot today and bring your vision to life.

A collaborative online initiative supporting people and their communities to grow their success.

Your step-by-step guide to making ideas happen in 2025.

Open to all residents, businesses and organisations looking to grow their impact. For anyone looking to do more, learn more and connect better.

Activate your side hustle today - Expand Your Impact.

When: 18, 19 and 20 February 2025, from 12 noon to 2pm (via Zoom)

These interactive sessions will teach you how to structure your project, find support and grow participation all from the comfort of your home or your desk. Delivered as Lunch and Learn sessions, to easily fit into your calendar or work commitments.

Whether you're working on a business idea, a community initiative, or a creative project, these workshops will equip you with the tools, strategies and connections to make 'it' happen. Don't miss this opportunity—register now to secure your FREE spot!



This initiative are funded by the Australian and Victorian Government's Community Recovery Program.

Council's service arrangements:

Stay up to date via Council's website and social media.

Please note that Council will be closed from 12:00 noon on Tuesday, 24 December 2024 until 8:30am Thursday, 2 January 2025.

For emergencies, please call 1300 520 520 and follow the prompts for the service response required.

Pools: will be open on days where the temperature is forecast to be 22°C or over except for Christmas Day when all pools will be CLOSED. Any unscheduled pool closures will be advertised on Council's Facebook Page.

Council Maternal and Child Health Centres: will be CLOSED from 12:00 noon Friday, 20 December 2024, reopening on Thursday, 2 January 2025. Contact the 24-hour Maternal and Child Health Line on 132 229, or for urgent concerns please call 000.

Library Services: will be CLOSED from 12:00 noon Friday, 20 December 2024 until Monday, 6 January 2025. Allowances will be made for borrowings that fall due over this period. Please call 1300 520 520 or visit the Council's website www.buloke.vic.gov.au/libraries for updates.

Kerbside Collection and Landfill

For all kerbside and recycle collections please ensure bins are out the night before collection and accessible to the garbage truck. Services are as follows:

Friday 20 December 2024

Normal garbage service for Donald and Corack Rural
All Landfills and Transfer Stations Open

Wednesday 25 December 2024 (Christmas Day)

All Landfills and Transfer Stations CLOSED
No Kerbside collections on Christmas Day - Recycling service for Nullawil, Culgoa, Berriwillock, Sea Lake and Nandaly will be moved to the Thursday. Residents of these towns will need to put BOTH BINS out on Christmas Day evening (25 December)

Thursday 26 December 2024 (Boxing Day)

Normal garbage service for - Nullawil, Culgoa, Berriwillock, Sea Lake and Nandaly - Wycheproof collection will be later than usual

DONALD Landfill and Transfer Station CLOSED

Friday 27 December 2024

Normal garbage service for Donald and Corack Rural
All Landfills and Transfer Stations open - EXCEPT CHARLTON CLOSED

Monday 30 December 2024

Normal garbage service for Charlton, Watchem and Birchip
All Landfills and Transfer Stations open

Tuesday 31 December 2024

Normal garbage service for
All Landfills and Transfer Stations open

Wednesday 1 January 2025 (New Year's Day)

All Landfills and Transfer Stations CLOSED

Thursday 2 January 2025

DONALD Landfill and Transfer Station Open
Normal garbage service for - Nullawil, Culgoa, Berriwillock, Sea Lake, Nandaly and Wycheproof

Monday 6 January 2025

All Landfills and Transfer Stations open - EXCEPT BIRCHIP AND SEA LAKE CLOSED



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

HOME FIRE SAFETY CHECKLIST

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

AND MORE!

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



Merry Christmas with "Paddington"

The final movie at The Rex for 2024 will be the family friendly "Paddington in Peru", set to captivate audiences with advance-release screenings on Saturday and Sunday, December 21 and 22.

The Rex has secured the opportunity to screen "Paddington" prior to the national release date of January 1, 2025, so local communities have the chance to jump in early and follow the adorable bear and his adopted British family as they journey into the jungles of Peru to see his Aunt Lucy.

In this, the third outing in the franchise, Paddington returns to Peru to visit his beloved Aunt Lucy, who now resides at the Home for Retired Bears. With the Brown family in tow, a thrilling adventure ensues when a mystery plunges them into an unexpected journey.

With Ben Whishaw continuing to voice "Paddington" and Hugh Bonneville still appearing as the Brown family patriarch, Sally Hawkins as "Mrs. Brown" has been replaced by Emily Mortimer, and the two children have less onscreen time than in the previous films.

However, the inclusion of Academy Award winner, Olivia Coleman as the Reverend Mother (with a take on "The Sound of Music"), along with Antonio Banderas (river boat captain, "Hunter Cabot"), Imelda Staunton, Jim Broadbent and Julie Walters, there's a list of British A-listers whose acting talent continues to give the movie plenty of class.

While this film takes a closer look at Paddington's past, the warmth and kindness of Paddington 1 and 2 is retained and makes number 3 a genuinely charming and enjoyable outing. With the action having moved out of London and into the wilds of Peru get set for some surprises as Paddington is focused on his family orientated mission.

Patrons, please note the following screening times for "Paddington in Peru" (PG 106 mins):

Saturday 21 Dec 2 p.m. & 8 p.m. | Sunday 22 Dec 2 p.m. | No Tuesday 24 Dec screening.

HOLIDAY CLOSURE

The Rex will be closed from Monday, December 23 to Friday, January 17. Screenings will resume on Saturday January 18, 8 p.m. with "Moana 2" (PG 100mins - also Sunday Jan 19 & Tue 21 Jan 21) followed by "We Live in Time" (CTC 108 mins).

The Rex wishes all patrons, supporters and volunteers a very merry and safe Christmas, and we extend our thanks to all for their support over the past twelve months. We look forward to another busy and productive year in 2025 with the continued delivery of movie and live entertainment for our wider communities.

Handbook to Tackle Farmer Mental Health

The Victorian Farmers Federation "Making our Farms Safer" Project (VFF MOFS) is aiming to tackle the scourge of mental health in rural communities by launching the new "Harvesting Change" handbook for farmers.

VFF vice-president and Chairperson of the "Making our Farms Safer" Committee, Danyel Cucinotta, said the free handbook is available to all Victorian farmers and offers practical mental health tips, information and advice that are critical to save lives.

"It's a sobering reality that nearly half of Australian farmers say they have recently felt depressed, with almost two thirds of them experiencing anxiety," Ms Cucinotta said.

"Almost half of Australian farmers have had thoughts of

self-harm or suicide. That is absolutely devastating and this handbook is a great first step towards giving farming communities the support and resources they need."

Ms Cucinotta said the much-needed handbook fills a hole within the industry. It has been written by farmers and industry experts for farmers and our communities, while keeping front of mind the unique challenges that we face.

"This vital resource is available to all Victorian

farmers and stands alone as the only fit-for-purpose mental health guidebook made specifically for farmers and rural Victorians," she said.

"It has been meticulously created using the guidance of farmers and mental health professionals and is the result of months of planning and work to ensure it's a vital resource for farmers.

"Mental health doesn't just impact those suffering directly. It's a huge issue for families and the community as a whole. This handbook is

made for those people in mind and acts as a tool to begin those important conversations."

This handbook has been created as part of the VFF Making Our Farms Safer project, a free farm safety education and support service for Victorian farmers, funded by the Victorian Government through Agriculture Victoria.

You can find the Making Our Farms Safer project on all social media platforms and download a free copy of the handbook at www.makingourfarmsafer.org.au

A Christmas Gift which Costs No Money!

An old story tells us of a young man who was selling goods going from door to door to raise funds to help pay his way through school found himself very hungry one day while door knocking.

He decided he would ask for a meal at the next house, however; he lost his nerve when a lovely teenage girl opened the door and instead of a meal he asked for a drink of water.

The girl thought he looked hungry and so brought him a large glass of milk. He drank it slowly and then asked, "How much do I owe you?"

"You don't owe me anything," she replied. "Mum has taught us never to accept pay for kindness".

He said, "Then I thank you from my heart". As Howard Kelly left that house, he not only felt stronger physically but he was encouraged too because of receiving this Christmas gift which cost no money. He had been ready to give up and quit school.

Years later that teenage girl, now an older woman became critically ill. The local doctors were baffled. They finally sent her to the big city where they called in specialists to study her rare disease. Dr. Howard Kelly was called in for the consultation. When he heard the name of the town she came from a distant memory was jogged.

Immediately he rose and went down the hall of the hospital to her room. He recognised her at once. He went back to the consultation room determined to do his best to save her life. After a long struggle the battle was won and Dr Kelly requested the business office to pass the final bill to him for approval. He looked at it and then wrote a message on the edge and the bill was sent to her room. She feared to open it for she was sure it would take the rest of her life to pay for it. Finally she looked and something caught her attention on the side of the bill.

She read these words, "Paid in full with one glass of milk" (signed) Dr Howard Kelly. Tears of joy flooded her eyes. That young lady had learnt a beautiful truth from her mother and that

yielded wonderful fruit in later life.

Christmas is now upon us during which time we give gifts to one another and celebrate and give thanks for the birth of Jesus. The Bible tells us that over 2000 years ago an angel announced to the shepherds in the fields near Bethlehem, "A Saviour has been born to you; He is Christ the Lord" (Luke 2:11). This babe grew into a person like no other. He taught amazing truths, performed wonderful miracles, healed the sick, fed 5000 hungry people and calmed the storm on the lake. Despite all these wonderful things Jesus said and did, some people wanted to kill Him and so hung Jesus on a cross where He died as a sacrifice taking the punishment we deserve for our wrongdoing.

"For God made Christ, who never sinned, to be the offering for our sin, so that we could be made right with God through Christ" (2 Corinthians 5:21).

So just like the woman gratefully received the "paid in full" gift from Dr Howard Kelly, it makes sense for each of us to gratefully receive the "paid in full" gift offered to us by Jesus.

This is the most wonderful Christmas gift of all. It has eternal benefits. Give thanks, confess our wrongdoing and receive the gift of salvation by yielding to Jesus as Saviour and Lord. This Christmas may we stand amazed at the God who gave up His heavenly home to be born as a Child, live as a Man, die as our Saviour and rise as our Lord and King. Have a happy and holy Christmas.



Bruce Stewart.

• Bruce Stewart



A glass of milk – a Christmas gift which cost no money!!

• The girl thought he looked hungry and so brought him a large glass of milk. He drank it slowly and then asked, "How much do I owe you?" "You don't owe me anything," she replied. "Mum has taught us never to accept pay for kindness". He said, "Then I thank you from my heart". As Howard Kelly left that house, he not only felt stronger physically but he was encouraged too because of receiving this Christmas gift which cost no money. He had been ready to give up and quit school.



"The time came for the baby to be born, and she (Mary) gave birth to her first born son. She wrapped Him (Jesus) in cloths and placed Him in a manger".. Luke 2:6,7

• A group of young people from a youth group of a church dramatize the story of the birth of Jesus... a common activity at this time of the year.



In the rare occurrence of a wind turbine fire, comprehensive emergency response plans and training are in place

Modern wind turbines are extremely unlikely to catch fire, and measures are in place to address the unlikely event of a fire in a turbine. These include:

- controls to prevent fires from occurring
- ongoing inspections as part of maintenance schedule, and
- equipping turbines with automatic fire suppression systems.

Every wind farm has an Emergency Management Plan, which addresses fire safety. The wind farm operator will engage with local fire authorities to ensure alignment with local practices. In addition, the access tracks constructed for wind turbines have been found to help with fighting unrelated fires on properties.



Learn more about renewable energy generation on our website.

www.w-wind.com.au
reception@w-wind.com.au
03 5421 9999



Transmission Lines – “Don’t Think, Do!”

By Peter Hobbs

My previous article, “Call a Spud a Spud” was inspired by Jim “Spud” Hepworth’s candid opinion on the installation of transmission lines on farming property.

This article which is intended to be a follow-up and one motivated by Charltonian Glenda Watts’s Letter to the Editor in the November 22, 2024, edition of this tabloid.

Glenda’s message is simple but significant in the process developed by the Victorian Government underpinning the construction of transmission lines in rural Victoria.

She identifies specific instances of the blatant lack of the two-way communication between Transmission Company Victoria (TCV) and the community which is a supposed hallmark of TCV as detailed in their 2024 Fact Sheet “Preferred Easement: Landholder Next Steps”, of which there are seven and which are intended to be the panacea for the successful implementation for the transmission lines installation. It is subtitled, “My property is in the preferred easement — what happens now?”

Shortcomings

What follows is a dissection of these seven steps outlining their shortcomings. It is appreciated that the vast majority of landholders do not want the matter to reach this point but it is imperative for such an analysis because the shortcomings identified can and should be used in defence of the transmission lines being installed. This analysis is detailed but is followed by further suggested action to prevent this raping of agricultural land and, if this is not immediately possible, putting the misconceived project on permanent hold.

Step 1: Landholders Discuss Preferred Easement dictates that TCV’s team of dedicated Landholder Liaisons ensures landholders have the opportunity to discuss what the preferred easement means for them and to answer any questions they may have. TCV claim to recognise that easements have direct impacts on people and families and therefore should give of time to listen and assess all the information available to them especially that information provided by landholders.

Tick in Box

That is not supported by Glenda, who states, “Another TCV Drop-In Session, another tick in the TCV’s consultation box and just another waste of time with immeasurable frustration for the local communities and their farmers” and “I attended the Zoom CRC (sic) (Zoom Conference Room Connector) meeting the previous evening. It was another successful ticking the box exercise for TCV and yes, another complete waste of time for most others in attendance” and “It was blatantly obvious at the CRC meeting that they had no desire to show any interest whatsoever in the map showing 140kms of shoulder to shoulder opposition to the transmission towers.”

Towers

Barry Batters, a farmer from Sutherland north of St Arnaud, has four towers designated for his property and six further towers on a leased property. Says Barry, “We’ve tried in good faith over the past 18 months to try to talk to Transmission Company Victoria, the Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO) and VicGrid trying to work through the issues, but to this day they still haven’t answered one question we’ve asked them. I’ve been farming here for over 50 years and I’ve never seen the community torn apart so much. They’ve treated farmers with contempt – 99 per cent of people are dead against the project.”

Katherine Myers is a potato grower at Tourello near Ballarat and her property is in the corridor of the Western Renewables link. She said she felt “numb” over the decision. “It kind of implies the government doesn’t have to follow the rules. Why do they bother with the pretence of community consultation? Why not just show up with concrete trucks?”

Failure

These are but three examples of how the consultation process highlighted by TCV has been an abject failure.

The Independent Federal Member for Indi, in Victoria’s north-east, Dr Helen Haines, has stated “silencing communities is terrible governance.”

To address the concerns of rural communities about renewable energy infrastructure projects, Dr Haines and Independent Senator for the ACT David Pockock worked with Federal Minister for Climate Change and Energy, Chris Bowen, to establish an independent review into community engagement.

The Australian Energy Infrastructure Commissioner’s (AEIC) independent Community Engagement Review (the Review) sought input from landholders and community members living close to renewable energy transition developments. Indeed it claims to have identified opportunities to ensure community participation. Ms Haines, stated: “The Community Engagement Review final report was clear – the state and federal governments must improve community engagement and consultation.”

In her letter to the Victorian Minister for Energy and Resources, Lily D’Ambrosia, and Minister for Planning, Sonya Kilkeny, Dr Haines expressed concern that there are not enough safeguards to ensure communities are heard and their issues acted upon by developers.

“In my letter to state ministers, I asked how the Victorian Government will act to implement the recommendations of the review to ensure community engagement and community benefit are

delivered for the communities in Indi impacted by renewable energy projects. The Federal Government needs to put money behind the recommendations in the Review and work with the states to legislate best practice community engagement for the energy transition.”

It should be noted that the Australian Government accepted in full or in principle all recommendations from the Review.

Failures

Dr Haines has pinpointed how both the Victorian Government and the Federal Government have failed farmers by renegeing on their word for proper consultation.

This review made sweeping recommendations to improve engagement with renewable energy infrastructure developments, one of which was to “... improve complaint handling processes.”

Wow! Within a month, the Victorian Government legislated to remove the right for third parties to appeal renewable energy planning decisions through VCAT. Helen Haines immediately wrote to the Victorian Government expressing her dismay with this decision and correctly stated that

“The decision to remove the right to appeal to VCAT is contrary to the recommendations of the Review’s final report”.

On the one hand, at a federal level the AEIC recommends with full Australian Government approval that in regard to renewable energy infrastructure, the complaints handling processes should be improved, then in the blink of an eye, the Victorian Government bans appeals against renewable energy planning decisions through VCAT.

Action has also been a plenty in the Victorian Parliament. The Nationals Member for Shepparton District and former Mayor of Greater Shepparton, Kim O’Keeffe, raised her major concerns in Parliament about the removal of the planning panel process, including the removal of third-party appeals to VCAT for renewable energy projects.

“This government is taking away the rights of regional communities, and there has been an outcry from landowners to remove the right to challenge or appeal transmission infrastructure in VCAT,” she said.

This is a blatant attempt by the Allan Labor Government to silence regional voices in favour of big renewable energy companies. The premier has failed to introduce renewable energy projects that communities want so instead her own government are silencing their voices and will be forcing unwanted projects.

“Attorney General Jaclyn Symes, when questioned in Parliament, failed to respond to the decision to strip VCAT



• Peter Hobbs.

from the renewables appeal process, handballing the matter to the Agriculture Minister Ros Spence, from whom we now await a response. The Nationals will continue to fight for answers, given that affected primary producers will now have to take their grievances to the far more expensive Supreme Court.”

Step 2: Landholders Provide Feedback is equally flawed. This step purports to provide landholders with the opportunity to provide feedback on infrastructure placement and construction management which will be considered by project engineers. This assumes landholders have the necessary expertise to comment on these issues which would be merely considered but not necessarily implemented.

Step 3: Independent Valuations is where this matter becomes really grubby. This step is intended for landholders to receive a fair and reasonable offer of compensation. An initial compensation assessment will be calculated by a qualified valuer in line with the Land Acquisition and Compensation Act 1986 (Vic) and the Valuation of Land Act 1960 (Vic). It is interesting to note that these Acts have apparently escaped the attention of all relevant parties.

The pivotal part of the 1986 Act is section 41, General Principles on which Compensation is Based and this, generally speaking, lists the considerations I identified in my “Call a Spud a Spud” article except for one major addition, that being outlined in Section 44 of the Act, Solatium. Paragraph 1 of this Section states “The amount of compensation may be increased by such amount, not exceeding 10% of the market value of the land, by way of solatium as is reasonable to compensate the claimant for intangible and non-pecuniary disadvantages resulting from the acquisition.”

Compensation

Solatium is compensation given as solace for suffering, loss, or injured feelings. If a property is valued at \$2,000,000, for example, solatium of \$200,000 could be payable.

The 1960 Act states at Section 5A, Determining Value of Land that when determining the value of the land, “the use to which such land is being put at the relevant time, the highest and best use to which the land might reasonably be expected to be put at the relevant time and to any potential

use...” should be taken into account. If I was involved in contributing to the process of valuing land which is an integral part of Step 3, as Fabian, the 1960s rock sensation would say, “turn me loose.”

Notwithstanding the intricacies of compensation, Section 22 of the 1960 Act, Application to VCAT for Review captured my attention. Paragraph 1 states: “An objector who is dissatisfied with the decision of a valuer or the valuer-general on the objection may apply to VCAT for review of the decision.” WOW! This means farmers cannot appeal to VCAT in regard to a decision to take their land but they can appeal to VCAT if dissatisfied with the valuation of their financial loss as a result of this land being purloined. This inconsistency I believe could be used to challenge the Victorian Government’s decision to ban land acquisition appeals to VCAT.

The law can be used to “buy” time and make things difficult for a party being challenged. Section 23 of the 1960 Act, Appeal to the Supreme Court, may well come into play. Paragraph 1 states, “The president of VCAT, on his or her own initiative or on the application of a party, may refer a matter that is the subject of an application under Section 22 to the Supreme Court to be treated as an appeal to the Supreme Court if the President is satisfied that the matter raises questions of unusual difficulty or of general importance.”

And cost? Referring to the 1986 Act Section 41, paragraph 1 (f), compensation assessment must include “... any legal, valuation and other professional expenses necessarily incurred by the claimant by reason of the acquisition ...”

Step 4: Compensation is, to quote Ebenezer Scrooge, “humbug”. At this point, farmers will receive an Option for Easement Proposal which will include the compensation amount for the easement as assessed by the valuer. If the farmers agree to all of this and sign what TCV call “associated documentation” they will receive an option sign-on fee. Oh no! It will be the farmer who will submit to TCV their total compensation claim and if TCV do not agree, off we go to VCAT and then most probably to the Supreme Court.

Steps 5, 6 and 7 should never occur or already have occurred. Step 5, Planning for Construction Developed in Consultation with Landholders should have been undertaken at Steps 1 and 2. Step 6, Professional Advice for Landholders, such as valuation, accounting and legal advice all at the expense of TCV will also have been undertaken and Step 7, Option for Easement Finalised Before Construction will never occur because this is the step which indicates everything is A-okay. If this step was to be observed, it is noted that the first compensation payment of 80% only would be made when the option exercise notice is provided to the landholder; the remaining payment would be made when the

easement has been registered on the title of the property. Everything is not A-okay, because Section 51 (xxxi) of the Australian Constitution would have been breached in that the “just terms” provision would not have been observed as farmers would have been offered unjust compensation.

The 2024 TCV Fact Sheet provides some additional mystifying information. For example, “Machinery up to 5m high will be able to operate under the new VNI (Victoria to NSW Interconnector) transmission lines, and taller machinery up to 8.6m may also be used subject to a safety assessment” and “Once tower designs for the VNI West project have been finalised, further information will be made available to landholders in relation to separation distances relevant to a specific property.” Yet again, non-committal and indefinite statements which are in defiance of Steps 1, 2 and 5 of the Fact Sheet call into question the veracity of not just the Fact Sheet but the entire project.

Compare this with “Concerns about the potential health effects of Electro Magnetic Fields (EMF) expressed by residents throughout the region which helped inform adoption of a 300-metre buffer from all residences to alleviate this concern.”

And yet TCV claim it is okay for farmers to work directly under the transmission lines with a John Deere S680 Combine Harvester which is conveniently 5 metres in height.

I additionally note that “Discussions with stakeholders including local Councils, communities and Traditional Owners commenced during the early stages of project development.” It may be pertinent to enquire at this stage what the outcomes from discussions with the Buloke Shire Council were, that is if there were discussions and if these have been documented by this Council in a report or communicated to residents of the Buloke Shire.

To simplify this matter is beyond the intellectual or literary skills of this author but what follows is his best attempt.

Two Options

It is clear that farmers have two options. The first is to attempt to put an end to the proposal to take from them parcels of their land for the construction of transmission lines and the second is to put this project on permanent hold. To put an end to this outrageous matter is clearly the prime objective of, as Barry Batters puts it, 99% of people, farmers and non-farmers alike.

Appeals

The fight to put an end to this proposal can be fought on two fronts, state and federal. The state level fight should come first. I have demonstrated how attempts in the Victorian State Parliament to review the removal of third-party appeals to VCAT have

• Continued on page 9.

—More on the Landholders' Fight

• Continued from page 8.
been met with prevarication and evasion.

An appeal to VCAT remains a solid option for a starting point which would be rejected. As Kim O'Keeffe, inter alios, has correctly concluded, the next step is the Victorian Supreme Court which is Victoria's highest court. The court is divided into the Trial Division which hears serious criminal cases and the Court of Appeal which hears appeals from civil cases and appeals from VCAT. Notwithstanding the Victorian Government's ban on appeals to VCAT, an appeal to VCAT may well be in order so as to receive a verdict denying the right to appeal so this verdict can be used in an appeal to the Supreme Court.

Two Issues

Two issues need to be addressed if an appeal to the Supreme Court is pursued the cost and what matters at law can be relied upon.

Appellate attorneys are expensive and can charge between \$500 and \$800 an hour but costs can be redeemable.

Supreme Court costs are divided into Standard Fee Payers which means in essence a natural person, Concession Fee Payers which means a person holding a current health care card and Corporate Fee Payers which means an entity other than the previous two. An appeal should be made in the name of one farmer with, of course, a level of support which results in zero personal cost and preferably by one who holds a concessional health care card for the following examples of financial reasons.

Court of Appeal Fees Corporate Standard Concession:

Commencement of Appeal \$4,997.40, \$2,488.70, \$338.00.

Each Day of a Hearing \$1,843.70, \$921.00, \$338.00.

Rather than bewail the cost of an appeal to the Supreme Court, fee exemptions should be considered.

Order 23(2) of the Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006 in Victoria allows for a referral to the Supreme Court and no fee is payable. This Charter protects and legally recognises many human rights in Victoria especially civil and political rights. Public authorities must observe those rights. New policies and legislation must take into account human rights.

The Charter places responsibilities on the three areas of government: parliament, courts and tribunals and public authorities.

One would commence by demanding to know if the following Charter Obligations were observed. First, when introducing new laws into Victoria's Parliament, a Statement of Compatibility must be tabled in parliament indicating how the proposed law is compatible with the rights set out in the Charter. I have not been able to find such a Statement. Second, the Scrutiny of Acts and Regulations Committee reviews Bills and statutory rules and reports to parliament as to whether they are compatible with human rights. I have not been able to locate such a Review. This is not to say that the relevant Statement and Review does exist but my attempts have been unsuccessful.

Protection

Section 20 of the Charter protects a person's right to not be deprived of their property and this right applies where property is acquired or seized under civil law, where a public authority has a right to access a property and where planning laws restrict the use of property.

As a corollary to the state level fight, if there is a belief that human rights have been breached and there is a damned good case to say they are, the Victorian Ombudsman can be contacted with a view to an appeal.

The Supreme Court has the power to declare that a law is inconsistent with human rights

but does not have the power to strike it down, but the Court would have the power to strike down a law if it could be demonstrated procedural justice had not been observed... and it can. Procedural justice relies on four principles: being fair in processes, being transparent in actions, providing opportunity for voice and being impartial in decision making. One does not have to be a close relative of Einstein to see that all four principles have not been observed in denying farmers the right to appeal to VCAT which makes an appeal to the Supreme Court all the more viable.

Appeals at the federal level I covered in my "Call a Spud a Spud" article and they relied on Section 51 (xxxi) of the Australian Constitution and the "just terms" provision. I stand by my take on how a case can be mounted at this level.

On Hold

The second option is to put the project on permanent hold and the best two ways to do this is, first, to engage in a drawn-out legal battle and second for as many affected farmers lodging exorbitant but justifiable compensation claims as outlined in my previous article.

I now wish to go one step further and attempt to quantify such claims and stand to be corrected as all farms are different and one year can be totally different to ensuing years both of which affect such quantification. The following should not be judged on the figures used but on the methods employed to calculate compensation and individual farmers can, if they can see merit in so doing, apply their own figures to the following compensation types.

Market Value of Land Being Acquired. If we assume the easement being acquired is 70 metres wide but due to concerns about the potential health effects of Electro Magnetic Fields (EMF) expressed by residents throughout the region a 300-metre buffer zone from all residences to alleviate this concern was adopted which could reasonably be applied to farmers working their land. For this area of compensation, I will settle for a 100 metre no-go zone which translates into the area being acquired. One hectare is equal to 10,000 square metres and if it is assumed that transmission towers are to be built on a property using 500 metres of easement in length 50,000 square metres or 5 hectares will be lost to the farmer's title. It is understood that land prices vary. A 14.97 hectare block of land on the St Arnaud - Wycheproof Road is selling for \$270,000 or \$18,036 per hectare. I understand land in the Donald, Watchem, Birchip area can also sell for this price but I appreciate this is probably top dollar. The compensation cost using these figures would be \$90,180.

Diminution of the Value of the Land. I take an example of a 1000 hectare or 2600 acre farm. If 5 hectares are

lost, 5% of the land is lost, which translates into a financial loss or compensable amount of \$901,800 using the figures quoted above.

Loss of Value of Crops. Calculations can be made on the premium return of a premium crop. As of 29 November 2024, the daily price of canola was \$743 per tonne in Melbourne and Geelong. If we assume a yield of 2.5 tonnes per hectare, the annual compensation due on these figures would be \$9,288 per annum based on the above quoted figures for the duration of the existence of the transmission towers or if the relevant authorities agree make one immediate payment of a mutually acceptable amount for the next 75 years, the anticipated life of these towers. This figure should be compared with a compensable amount for a reduction in carrying capacity if, say sheep or cattle were being grazed.

Relocation and inconvenience. The maximum amount of \$75,000 should be claimed.

Loss of Income During the Construction Process. Let it be assumed that a farmer cannot work 25% of his land during the construction of transmission lines which is an annual loss of 25% of income

as land needs to be worked for the entire year. If the farmer's annual income was \$1,500,000, the loss or compensable amount would be \$375,000.

Reimbursement of Legal, Accounting and Valuer costs. This depends on the scale of these services but is a compensable cost only for what has been expended and therefore cannot be included as an "in-the-hand" compensation.

Solatium. A claim of 10% of the market value of the land can be made which in this example would amount to \$1,803,600.

Simple Message

Legendary 1960s Hawthorn coach, John Kennedy Snr. once addressed his players at half-time when the Hawks were just on 7 goals down and he had a very simple message: "Don't think, do!" What he meant was you need to do something different because what we are doing at the moment is not working and thinking is not the answer. Hawthorn won the game by a little over 3 goals.

I believe this analogy is appropriate to the vexed question of the most appropriate action to take in this matter. I further believe I have provided a

number of options that can be followed but someone or somebody needs to do something about it.

Protesters have diligently and successfully protested, parliamentarians have eloquently spoken at federal and state levels, farming federations have lent their support and community members have forthrightly and unashamedly written about their concerns. These have collectively brought this matter to the attention of Australia and set the foundations for legal action. It is the affected farmers, the backbone of this country, who have grabbed my heartfelt attention and it is for this reason I believe action will be most effective if it is an affected farmer who instigates action by appealing to VCAT about the acquisition of land to construct transmission towers and then following on to higher levels by further appeal once this appeal is rejected.

This is a huge ask for an individual but if such a person could be identified or come forward, reassurance and all forms of tangible support would be forthcoming from all quarters, this being what I consider to be the most important issue that has ever faced the Victorian rural community.



• Charlton Probiants at their Christmas meeting.

Charlton Probiants' Christmas Meeting

On Friday December 13, fifty Charlton Probus Club members attended their Christmas meeting at the Charlton Golf Club.

They began with a minute's silence in memory of Neil Cossar. Neil joined Probus in 2013. He was president in 2018/19 and publicity officer in 2022/23 and 2023/24. Neil was a willing member and did many tasks behind the scenes. Vale Neil.

At this meeting members also farewelled Margaret and Richard Bibby. Margaret and Richard were foundation members and in 2007/08 and 2008/09 were the outings officers.

A highlight of this time was organising a trip to Norfolk Island. Margaret was president in 2009/10 and Richard was program officer

in 2013/14. Margaret was assistant treasurer for 5 terms. Besides their contribution to the Committee Richard also organised the footy tipping for one season and has helped deliver the newsletter from the beginning - over 200 newsletters! Members thanked them for their contribution to the club and wished them well in Bendigo.

After a short meeting, Grace was read by Margaret Bibby, and then Christmas lunch was served. After lunch members were treated to a delightful performance by the students from St Joseph's School.

The young performers brought Christmas cheer with renditions of both traditional and contemporary Christmas songs. The students received a warm round of applause before heading back to school.

This was followed by the group's own carol singing. Thanks to Gill Gretgrix for playing the keyboard. Brian Patton and Eily Rosewall won the best hat competition. After some lucky draws and jokes, Richard Bibby read the Travellers' Farewell.

May the peace and joy of Christmas live in our hearts all year long.

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"He insisted that he be allowed to come along to finish off where they were last time."

Simple and Natural Cleaning Solutions

Just as in years gone by, simple and safe substances have a place in our homes. Many commonly used pantry items can be used to make simple household products, which will clean, disinfect and polish.

To take care of most of those cleaning chores we try to avoid, use the following all-purpose disinfectant cleaner. Dissolve one teaspoon of eucalyptus oil in one tablespoon of methylated spirits, then blend this mixture and two tablespoons of laundry borax with one litre of warm water. Store in a suitable bottle for future use, and don't forget to label it. Apply the all-purpose cleaner with a soft, clean cloth, then buff up with a second cloth.

Stubborn stains and grease can be removed from carpets with this handy cleaning gel.

Put leftover soap scraps in a saucepan, cover with water and allow to soak for twenty-four hours, stirring occasionally. While stirring continuously, bring to the boil over a medium heat, reduce to a simmer, then whisk to completely dissolve the soap. Remove from the stove, allow to cool, and for each cup of resultant soap-like jelly, add two cups of talcum powder and two tablespoons of natural turpentine. Mix well and store in a large, wide-mouthed container with a tight-fitting lid.

Carpets can be kept fragrantly

fresh by using this deodorising powder. Add one drop of fragrant essential oil of your choice to every tablespoon of bicarbonate of soda, then mix thoroughly in a blender. How much you make up depends on your requirements. Once made, store your powder in an airtight jar or sealable plastic bag in dry, cool, dark spot for twenty-four hours before use (allowing it to fully absorb the aromatic oil), then sprinkle it on your carpet. Leave for a few minutes before vacuuming it up.

Lavender is my oil of choice for the carpet powder because my family likes the scent. It has anti-bacterial properties, makes an excellent deodorant, and repels insects such as moths and silverfish. The made-up powder can be stored indefinitely in

an airtight glass jar.

Timber surfaces can be cleaned and polished with this natural furniture polish. Thoroughly blend together a half-cup of strained lemon juice, a cup of raw linseed oil (available from hardware stores) and ten to twenty drops of lemon essential oil. You can adjust the essential oil for a stronger lemony fragrance by adding one extra drop at a time. Store in a plastic pump-spray bottle and apply with a slightly moistened, soft cloth. The furniture polish is an excellent product for people who suffer from dust allergies and asthma, because it picks up the dust instead of flicking it into the air.

For light scratches on timber surfaces, apply equal parts of



olive oil and white vinegar to remove them. Rub well into the scratch with a soft, dry cloth.

This eucalyptus disinfectant cleaner is ideal for kitchens and bathrooms when all that is needed is a quick wipe over. It can also be used to remove mould from bathroom tiles and painted surfaces. Dissolve one teaspoon of eucalyptus oil in one dessert spoon of methylated spirits. Add to a pump-spray bottle containing half-a-litre of water to make a good disinfectant, cleaner and deodorising spray. Shake well to mix and use on a fine mist setting.

So, when it's time for those cleaning chores, choose the



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YOUR THREE-DAY TV GUIDE

Tuesday

ABC TV (2) 6.00 Morning Programs. 10.30 Secret Science. 11.00 Antiques Roadshow. 12.00 News. 1.00 Headlines. 2.05 Brush With Fame. 2.30 Back Roads. 3.00 A Bite To Eat. 3.30 Long Lost Family. 4.15 Grand Designs: House Of The Year. 5.00 Antiques Roadshow. 6.00 A Bite To Eat. 6.30 Hard Quiz. 7.00 News. 7.30 7.30. 8.00 Headlines. Final. 8.50 Solar System With Brian Cox. Final. 9.50 Believing In Australia. 10.45 Joanna And The Human Swan. 11.35 Late Programs.

ABC FAMILY (22) 6.00 Kids' Programs. 3.15 Wiggle. 3.30 Play School. 4.00 Andy's Global Adventures. 4.15 Fireman Sam. 4.40 Builder Brothers Dream Factory. 5.20 PJ Masks Power Heroes. 6.05 Kangaroo Beach. 6.25 Peppa's Christmas. 6.40 Aliens Love Underpants And Panta Claus. 7.05 Andy And The Band. 7.35 The Investigators. 7.50 Operation Ouch! 8.20 Deadly 60. 8.50 Croc Watch. 9.35 Doctor Who. 10.25 Mythbusters "There's Your Problem!". 10.50 Late Programs.

NITV (34) 6.00 Morning Programs. 2.00 First People's Kitchen. 2.30 The Cook Up. 3.00 Waabiny Time. 3.35 Spartakus. 4.05 Mysterious Cities Of Gold. 4.35 Motown Magic. 5.00 Our Stories. 5.15 Harlem Globetrotters: Play It Forward. 6.00 Bamay. 6.40 Guardians Of The Wild. 7.30 Piri's Tiki Tour. 8.30 Unleash The Beast. 9.30 Hunting Aotearoa. 10.30 MOVIE: Muri. (2022) 12.20 Proud Histories: Past, Present & Future. 1.00 Volumz. 2.00 Bush Bands Bash. 3.00 Late Programs.

SBS (3) 6.00 Morning Programs. 1.00 PBS News. 2.00 TradFest: The Fingal Sessions. 2.40 French Atlantic. 3.10 The Weekly Football Wrap. 3.40 The Cook Up. 4.10 The Supernet. 5.05 Jeopardy! 5.30 Letters And Numbers. 6.00 Mastermind Aust. 6.30 News. 7.35 Britain's Scenic Railways At Christmas. 8.30 Who Do You Think You Are? 9.35 London Zoo At Christmas. 10.30 SBS News. 11.00 Babylon Berlin. 12.55 Miniseries: Safe Home. 1.50 Late Programs.

SBS VLND (31) 6.00 Morning Programs. 11.55 France 24 English News. 12.25 Land Of The Giants: Titans Of Tech. 2.00 Derry Girls. 3.00 The Pizza Show. 3.50 BBC News At Ten. 4.20 ABC World News Tonight. 4.45 PBS News. 5.45 Joy Of Painting. 6.15 Curse Of Oak Island. 7.05 Jeopardy! 7.35 8 Out Of 10 Cats. 8.30 The Unexplained Mysteries Of The Universe. 9.20 Hoarders. 10.55 Two Weeks To Live. 11.55 Viva La Vulva. 12.55 Dark Side Of The '90s. 1.45 Late Programs.

SBS MOVIES (32) 6.00 The Kid From The Big Apple. 2. (2017, Mandarin) 8.10 Sabrina. (1995) 10.30 To Leslie. (2022) 12.40 El Planeta. (2021) 2.10 A Hero. (2021, Farsi) 3.00 Okal. (2012) Kris Marshall. 6.30 Remi Nobody's Boy. (2018, French) Daniel Auteuil. 8.30 Home Song Stories. (2007) 10.25 High Ground. (2020) Jacob Junior Nayinggul. 12.25 Unclenching The Fists. (2021, Russian) 2.15 Timbuktu. (2014, French) 4.05 Tuesday Club. (2022, Swedish)

SEVEN (6) 6.00 Morning Programs. 1.20 Test Cricket: The Lunch Break. 2.00 Cricket. Third Test. Australia v India. Day 4. Afternoon session. 4.00 Test Cricket: Tea Break. 4.20 Cricket. Third Test. Australia v India. Day 4. Late afternoon session. 6.00 News. 7.00 Cricket. Big Bash League. Match 3. Sydney Thunder v Adelaide Strikers. 10.30 BBL Post-Game. 11.00 Motorway Patrol. 11.30 Late Programs.

7TWO (62) 6.00 Shopping. 6.30 Escape To The Country. 7.30 Harry's Practice. 8.00 Million Dollar Minute. 9.00 Left Off The Map. 9.30 NBC Today. 12.00 Better Homes. 1.00 Escape To The Country. 2.00 Creek To Coast. 2.30 My Greek Odyssey. 3.30 Left Off The Map. 4.00 Animal Rescue. 4.30 Better Homes. 5.30 Escape To The Country. 6.30 Bargain Hunt. 7.30 Call The Midwife. 8.45 Inspector George Gently. 10.45 The Yorkshire Vet. 11.45 Bargain Hunt. 12.45 Inspector George Gently. 3.00 Late Programs.

7MATE (64) 6.00 Morning Programs. 9.00 A Football Life. 10.00 Barrett-Jackson: Revved Up. 11.00 Storage Wars. 11.30 American Pickers. 12.30 Pawn Stars. 1.00 Outback Farm. 2.00 Mega Mechanics. 3.00 Billy The Exterminator. 3.30 Barrett-Jackson: Revved Up. 4.30 Storage Wars. 5.00 American Pickers. 6.00 Cricket. Third Test. Australia v India. Day 4. Late afternoon session. 7.00 Pawn Stars. 7.30 Outback Truckers. 9.30 Kings Of Pain. 10.30 Ice Road Truckers. 11.30 Late Programs.

NINE (8) 6.00 Today. 9.00 Today Extra Summer. 11.30 9News Morning. 12.00 MOVIE: The Nine Kittens Of Christmas. (2021) 2.00 Pointless. 3.00 Tipping Point. 4.00 9News Afternoon. 4.30 Tipping Point Australia. 5.30 News. 6.00 9News. 7.00 ACA. 7.30 The Hundred With Andy Lee. 8.30 The Grand Tour. 9.50 Resto My Ride Australia. 10.50 Transplant. 11.40 Prison. 12.30 Tipping Point. 1.30 TV Shop. 2.30 Our State On A Plate. 3.00 TV Shop. 4.00 Believer's Voice Of Victory. 4.30 ACA. 5.00 Late Programs.

9GEM (81) 6.00 Seaway. 7.00 Creflo. 7.30 Skippy. 8.00 TV Shop. 9.30 Newstyle Direct. 10.00 TV Shop. 10.30 Pointless. 11.30 My Favorite Martian. 12.00 Days Of Our Lives. 12.55 The Young And The Restless. 2.00 Dales For Sale. 3.00 Antiques Roadshow. 3.30 MOVIE: Steptoe And Son Rides Again. (1973) 5.30 The Travelling Auctioneers. 6.30 Antiques Roadshow. 7.30 New Tricks. 8.40 MOVIE: Licence To Kill. (1989) Timothy Dalton. 11.25 The First 48. 12.25 My Favorite Dalton. 12.55 Late Programs.

9GO! (82) 6.00 Morning Programs. 10.00 Ninjago. 10.30 Pokémon Ultimate Journeys. 11.00 Transformers: Prime. 11.30 Bakugan. 12.00 Hart Of Dixie. 1.00 I Dream Of Jeannie. 1.30 Bewitched. 2.00 The Golden Girls. 2.30 The Nanny. 3.30 Seinfeld. 4.30 The Addams Family. 5.00 Bewitched. 5.30 I Dream Of Jeannie. 6.00 The Golden Girls. 6.30 The Nanny. 7.30 Seinfeld. 8.30 MOVIE: The Lincoln Lawyer. (2011) Matthew McConaughey. 11.00 Seinfeld. 11.30 Late Programs.

TEN (5) 6.00 Morning Programs. 8.30 Bold. 9.00 Drew Barrymore. 10.00 Judge Judy. 10.30 Wheel Of Fortune Australia. 11.30 Ent. Tonight. 12.00 Farm To Fork. 12.30 Family Feud. 1.00 News. 2.00 Wheel Of Fortune. 2.30 Lingo. 3.30 News. 4.00 Neighbours. 4.30 Bold. 5.00 News. 6.00 Deal Or No Deal. 6.30 The Project. 7.30 Deal Or No Deal. Celebrity Jackpot. 8.30 Just For Laughs Montreal. 9.30 The Graham Norton Show. 10.30 News. 10.55 The Project. 12.00 Late Programs.

10 BOLD (53) 6.00 Shopping. 8.00 Australia By Design: Architecture. 8.30 Diagnosis Murder. 10.30 JAG. 12.30 Bondi Rescue. 1.30 Star Trek: Voyager. 2.30 Jake And The Fatman. 3.30 Diagnosis Murder. 5.30 JAG. 7.30 NCIS. 9.25 Hawaii Five-0. 11.15 Evil. 12.15 Shopping. 2.15 Diagnosis Murder. 4.05 JAG.

10 PEACH (52) 6.00 Stephen Colbert. 7.00 Drew Barrymore. 8.00 Lingo. 9.00 Deal Or No Deal. 9.30 Becker. 10.00 The Neighborhood. 10.30 King Of Queens. 11.00 Friends. 12.00 Big Bang. 1.00 How We Roll. 1.30 King Of Queens. 2.00 Becker. 2.30 Frasier. 3.30 The Neighborhood. 4.00 Farm To Fork. 4.30 King Of Queens. 5.00 Becker. 5.30 Frasier. 6.30 Neighbours. 7.00 Friends. 8.00 Big Bang. 9.30 Two And A Half Men. 10.30 The Neighborhood. 11.00 Nancy Drew. 12.00 Late Programs.

ABC TV (2) 6.00 News. 9.00 News. 10.00 Nigella's Christmas Bites. 11.00 Antiques Roadshow. 12.00 News. 1.00 The Forest. 2.00 Simply Nigella. 3.00 A Bite To Eat. 3.25 Long Lost Family. 4.15 Grand Designs: House Of The Year. 5.00 Antiques Roadshow. 6.00 A Bite To Eat. 6.30 Hard Quiz. 7.00 News. 7.30 7.30. 8.00 Neighbours Does Hard Quiz. Final. 8.30 The Yearly With Charlie Pickering. 9.30 The Cleaner. 10.30 Adam Hills: The Last Leg. 11.15 Summer Love. 12.20 Late Programs.

ABC FAMILY (22) 6.00 Kids' Programs. 2.40 Beep And Mort. 3.15 Wiggle. 3.30 Play School. 4.00 Andy's Safari Adventures. 4.15 Fireman Sam. 4.40 Builder Brothers Dream Factory. 5.20 PJ Masks Power Heroes. 6.05 Kangaroo Beach. 6.25 Thomas. 6.40 Piney: The Lonesome Pine. 7.05 Andy And The Band. 7.35 The Investigators. 7.50 Operation Ouch! 8.20 Doctor Who. 9.50 Mythbusters "There's Your Problem!". 10.15 Operation Ouch! 10.45 Horrible Histories. 11.15 Late Programs.

NITV (34) 6.00 Morning Programs. 2.00 First People's Kitchen. 2.30 The Cook Up. 3.00 Waabiny Time. 3.35 Spartakus. 4.05 Cities Of Gold. 4.35 Motown Magic. 5.00 Our Stories. 5.15 Harlem Globetrotters: Play It Forward. 6.00 Bamay. 6.40 Guardians Of The Wild. 7.30 Philly DA. 8.30 MOVIE: Blade Runner. (1982) 10.30 How Hip Hop Changed The World. 11.30 David Hawerood On Blackface. 12.25 Bree Way: Promise Witness Remembrance. 1.00 Bush Bands Bash. 3.00 Late Programs.

SBS (3) 6.00 Morning Programs. 12.00 BBC News At Ten. 12.30 ABC World News Tonight. 1.00 PBS News. 2.00 TradFest: The Fingal Sessions. 2.30 Language Of Light. New. 3.10 French Atlantic. 3.40 The Cook Up. 4.10 The Supernet. 5.05 Jeopardy! 5.30 Letters And Numbers. 6.00 Mastermind Aust. 6.30 News. 7.30 Wham! Last Christmas Unwrapped. 9.30 The Night Manager. 10.35 SBS News. 11.05 Maxima. 12.00 Pagan Peak. Return. 3.00 Late Programs.

SBS VLND (31) 6.00 Morning Programs. 12.00 France 24 English News. 12.30 Hudson & Rex. 1.20 Derry Girls. 2.20 Queer Sports. 3.15 The Weekly Football Wrap. 3.45 BBC News At Ten. 4.15 ABC World News Tonight. 4.45 PBS News. 5.45 Joy Of Painting. 6.15 Curse Of Oak Island. 7.05 Jeopardy! 7.35 8 Out Of 10 Cats. 8.30 MOVIE: The Goonies. (1985) Sean Astin, Josh Brolin. 10.35 MOVIE: Johnny Mnemonic. (1995) 12.25 Letterkenny. 2.05 Late Programs.

SBS MOVIES (32) 6.00 Remi Nobody's Boy. (2018, French) 8.00 Whale Rider. (2002) 9.55 The Falcons. (2018, Icelandic) 11.50 Juliet, Naked. (2018) 1.40 Lola. (1961, French) 3.15 Magnetic Fields. (2021, Greek) 4.50 Vijagers. (2022, Spanish) Juan Pablo Montenegro. 6.25 Heidi. (2015, German) Anuk Steffen. 8.30 The Nugget. (2002) 10.20 Long Story Short. (2021) Rafe Spall. 12.05 Falling. (2020) 2.10 Yardie. (2018) 4.05 Home Song Stories. (2007)

SEVEN (6) 6.00 Morning Programs. 1.20 Test Cricket: The Lunch Break. 2.00 Cricket. Third Test. Australia v India. Day 5. Afternoon session. 4.00 Test Cricket: Tea Break. 4.20 Cricket. Third Test. Australia v India. Day 5. Late afternoon session. 6.00 News. 7.00 Cricket. Big Bash League. Match 4. Melbourne Stars v Brisbane Heat. 10.30 BBL Post-Game. 11.00 Unbelievable Moments Caught On Camera. 12.00 Late Programs.

7TWO (62) 6.00 TBA. 6.30 Escape To The Country. 7.30 Harry's Practice. 8.00 Million Dollar Minute. 9.00 Left Off The Map. 9.30 NBC Today. 12.00 Better Homes. 1.00 Escape To The Country. 2.00 TBA. 2.30 The Yorkshire Vet. 3.30 Left Off The Map. 4.00 Animal Rescue. 4.30 Better Homes. 5.30 Escape To The Country. 6.30 Bargain Hunt. 7.30 Heartbeat. 8.45 The Inspector Lynley Mysteries. 10.45 Law & Order: UK. 11.45 Bargain Hunt. 12.45 Late Programs.

7MATE (64) 6.00 Morning Programs. 10.00 Barrett-Jackson: Revved Up. 11.00 Storage Wars. 11.30 American Pickers. 12.30 Pawn Stars. 1.00 Outback Truckers. 3.00 Billy The Exterminator. 3.30 Barrett-Jackson: Revved Up. 4.30 Storage Wars. 5.00 American Pickers. 6.00 Cricket. Third Test. Australia v India. Day 5. Late afternoon session. 7.00 Pawn Stars. 7.30 Highway Patrol. 8.30 The Force: BTL. 9.30 World's Wildest Police Videos. 10.30 Getting A Ticket In America. New. 11.30 Late Programs.

NINE (8) 6.00 Today. 9.00 Today Extra. 11.30 9News Morning. 12.00 MOVIE: Destination Christmas. (2022) 2.00 Pointless. 3.00 Tipping Point. 4.00 9News Afternoon. 4.30 Tipping Point Australia. 5.30 News. 6.00 9News. 7.00 ACA. 7.30 Taronga: Who's Who In The Zoo. 8.30 Budget Battlers. 9.30 Space Invaders. 10.30 Millionaire Holiday Home Swap. 11.30 The Equalizer. 12.20 Tipping Point. 1.30 TV Shop. 2.30 Global Shop. 3.00 TV Shop. 4.00 Believer's Voice Of Victory. 4.30 Late Programs.

9GEM (81) 6.00 Seaway. 7.00 Creflo. 7.30 Skippy. 8.00 TV Shop. 10.30 Pointless. 11.30 My Favorite Martian. 12.00 Days Of Our Lives. 12.55 The Young And The Restless. 1.50 New Tricks. 2.50 Antiques Roadshow. 3.20 MOVIE: Piccadilly Incident. (1946) 5.30 The Travelling Auctioneers. 6.30 Antiques Roadshow. 7.30 To The Manor Born. 8.35 MOVIE: GoldenEye. (1995) Pierce Brosnan, Sean Bean. 11.15 The Real Murders Of Orange County. 12.10 See No Evil. 1.00 Creflo. 1.30 Late Programs.

9GO! (82) 6.00 Morning Programs. 10.00 Ninjago. 10.30 Pokémon Ultimate Journeys. 11.00 Transformers: Prime. 11.30 Teen Titans Go! 12.00 Hart Of Dixie. 1.00 I Dream Of Jeannie. 1.30 Bewitched. 2.00 The Golden Girls. 2.30 The Nanny. 3.30 Seinfeld. 4.30 The Addams Family. 5.00 Bewitched. 5.30 I Dream Of Jeannie. 6.00 The Golden Girls. 6.30 The Nanny. 7.30 Seinfeld. 8.30 MOVIE: National Lampoon's European Vacation. (1985) Chevy Chase. 10.30 Seinfeld. 11.30 Late Programs.

TEN (5) 6.00 The Talk. 7.00 Deal Or No Deal. 7.30 Farm To Fork. 8.00 Neighbours. 8.30 Bold. 9.00 Drew Barrymore. 10.00 Judge Judy. 10.30 Deal Or No Deal. Celebrity Jackpot. 11.30 Ent. Tonight. 12.00 Farm To Fork. 12.30 Family Feud. 1.00 News. 2.00 Wheel Of Fortune. 2.30 Lingo. 3.30 News. 4.00 Neighbours. 4.30 Bold. 5.00 News. 6.00 Deal Or No Deal. 6.30 The Project. 7.30 Jamie Oliver: Christmas. 8.30 NCIS. 9.30 NCIS: Origins. 10.30 News. 10.55 The Project. 12.00 Late Programs.

10 BOLD (53) 6.00 Shopping. 8.00 NBL Slam. 8.30 Diagnosis Murder. 10.30 JAG. 12.30 Bondi Rescue. 1.30 Star Trek: Voyager. 2.30 Jake And The Fatman. 3.30 Diagnosis Murder. 5.30 JAG. 7.30 NCIS. 8.30 FBI: Most Wanted. 10.30 The Weekly Kick-Off. 11.00 NCIS. 12.50 Shopping. 2.20 Diagnosis Murder. 4.10 JAG.

10 PEACH (52) 6.00 Stephen Colbert. 7.00 Drew Barrymore. 8.00 Lingo. 9.00 Deal Or No Deal. 9.30 Becker. 10.00 The Neighborhood. 10.30 King Of Queens. 11.00 Friends. 12.00 Big Bang. 1.00 How We Roll. 1.30 King Of Queens. 2.00 Becker. 2.30 Frasier. 3.30 The Neighborhood. 4.00 Farm To Fork. 4.30 King Of Queens. 5.00 Becker. 5.30 Frasier. 6.30 Neighbours. 7.00 Friends. 8.00 Big Bang. 9.30 Two And A Half Men. 10.30 The Neighborhood. 11.00 Nancy Drew. Final. 12.00 Late Programs.

ABC TV (2) 6.00 Morning Programs. 1.00 Grand Designs Aust. Final. 2.00 Brush With Fame. 2.30 Back Roads. 3.00 A Bite To Eat. 3.25 Long Lost Family. 4.15 Grand Designs: House Of The Year. 5.00 Antiques Roadshow. 6.00 A Bite To Eat. 6.30 Hard Quiz Kids. 7.00 News. 7.30 7.30. Final. 8.00 Long Lost Family: Born Without A Trace. New. 9.05 Fake Or Fortune? 10.05 Long Lost Family: What Happened Next. Final. 10.55 Grand Designs: House Of The Year. Final. 11.45 Late Programs.

ABC FAMILY (22) 6.00 Kids' Programs. 2.40 Beep And Mort. 3.15 Wiggle. 3.30 Play School. 4.00 Andy's Safari Adventures. 4.15 Fireman Sam. 4.40 Builder Brothers Dream Factory. 5.20 PJ Masks Power Heroes. 6.05 Kangaroo Beach. 6.25 Kangaroo Beach. 6.40 Do, Re & Mi. 7.05 Andy And The Band. 7.35 The Investigators. 7.50 Operation Ouch! 8.20 Secrets Of The Zoo. 9.05 Teenage Boss: Next Level. 9.35 Doctor Who. 10.35 Mythbusters "There's Your Problem!". 11.00 Late Programs.

NITV (34) 6.00 Morning Programs. 11.00 Ethnic Business Awards. 1.00 Philly DA. 2.00 First People's Kitchen. 2.30 The Cook Up. 3.00 Waabiny Time. 3.35 Spartakus. 4.05 Cities Of Gold. 4.35 Motown Magic. 5.00 Our Stories. 5.15 Harlem Globetrotters. 6.00 Bamay. 6.40 Guardians Of The Wild. 7.30 Going Places. 8.30 The Walkers. New. 9.30 MOVIE: Jimi: All Is By My Side. (2013) André Benjamin. 11.35 Yothu Yindi Tribute Concert. 1.00 Bush Bands Bash. 3.00 On The Road. 5.00 Bamay.

SBS (3) 6.00 Morning Programs. 12.30 ABC World News Tonight. 1.00 PBS News. 2.00 TradFest: The Fingal Sessions. 2.30 Language Of Light. 3.10 French Atlantic. 3.40 The Cook Up. 4.10 The Supernet. 5.05 Jeopardy! 5.30 Letters And Numbers. 6.00 Mastermind Aust. 6.30 News. 7.30 Going Places. 8.30 Gods Of Tennis. 9.35 Daddy Issues. New. 10.35 SBS News. 11.05 DNA. 11.55 Blackout: Tomorrow Is Too Late. 12.50 Miniseries: The Night Logan Woke Up. 2.00 Late Programs.

SBS VLND (31) 6.00 Morning Programs. 12.15 France 24 English News. 12.45 Who Gets To Stay In Australia? 1.50 Derry Girls. 2.50 Earthworks. 3.45 BBC News At Ten. 4.15 ABC World News Tonight. 4.45 PBS News. 5.45 Joy Of Painting. 6.15 Curse Of Oak Island. 7.05 Jeopardy! 7.35 8 Out Of 10 Cats. 8.30 Holy Marvels With Dennis Quaid. 10.05 The Last Overland: Singapore To London. 11.55 The Parasocial Social Club. 12.45 Dark Side Of The 2000s. 2.35 Late Programs.

SBS MOVIES (32) 6.00 Lola. (1961, French) 7.35 A Hero. (2021, Farsi) 9.55 Magnetic Fields. (2021, Greek) 11.30 Home Song Stories. (2007) 1.25 Vijagers. (2022, Spanish) 3.00 Remi Nobody's Boy. (2018, French) 5.00 The Falcons. (2018, Icelandic) Lukas Emil Johansen. 6.55 Fantastic Mr. Fox. (2009) George Clooney. 8.30 The Rover. (2014) 10.25 The Frozen Ground. (2013) Nicolas Cage. 12.25 Death Of A Ladies' Man. (2020) 2.20 Nowhere Boy. (2009) 4.10 The Nugget. (2002)

SEVEN (6) 6.00 Sunrise. 9.00 The Morning Show. 11.30 News. 12.00 MOVIE: A Christmas Spark. (2022) 2.00 Motorbike Cops. 2.15 Catch Phrase. 3.00 The Chase. 4.00 News. 5.00 The Chase Australia. 6.00 Seven News. 7.00 Cricket. Big Bash League. Match 5. Melbourne Renegades v Hobart Hurricanes. 10.30 Sevens Cricket. The Spin. 11.15 Panty Tommy. 12.15 Criminal Confessions. 1.15 Travel Oz. 2.00 Shopping. 4.00 NBC Today. 5.00 Sunrise 5am News. 5.30 Sunrise.

7TWO (62) 6.00 TBA. 6.30 Escape To The Country. 7.30 Harry's Practice. 8.00 Million Dollar Minute. 9.00 Left Off The Map. 9.30 NBC Today. 12.00 Better Homes. 1.00 Escape To The Country. 2.00 South Aussie With Cosi. 2.30 Mt Hutt Rescue. 3.30 Left Off The Map. 4.00 Animal Rescue. 4.30 Better Homes. 5.30 Escape To The Country. 6.30 Bargain Hunt. 7.30 Father Brown. 8.30 Murdoch Mysteries. 11.30 Father Brown. 12.30 Bargain Hunt. 1.30 Mt Hutt Rescue. 2.30 Late Programs.

7MATE (64) 6.00 Morning Programs. 8.00 America's Game. 9.00 A Football Life. 10.00 Barrett-Jackson: Revved Up. 11.00 Storage Wars. 11.30 American Pickers. 12.30 Pawn Stars. 1.00 Highway Patrol. 2.00 The Force: BTL. 3.00 Billy The Exterminator. 3.30 Barrett-Jackson: Revved Up. 4.30 Storage Wars. 5.00 American Resto. 5.30 American Pickers. 6.30 Pawn Stars. 8.30 MOVIE: Spider-Man. (2002) Tobey Maguire. 11.00 MOVIE: The Invitation. (2022) 1.10 Late Programs.

NINE (8) 6.00 Today. 9.00 Today Extra Summer. 11.30 9News Morning. 12.00 MOVIE: Christmas In Alaska. (2023) 2.00 Pointless. 11.30 My Favorite Martian. 12.00 Days Of Our Lives. 12.55 The Young And The Restless. 1.50 To The Manor Born. 2.55 Antiques Roadshow. 3.25 MOVIE: One Million Years B.C. (1966) 5.30 The Travelling Auctioneers. 6.30 Antiques Roadshow. 7.30 The '80s Top Ten. 8.30 MOVIE: Tomorrow Never Dies. (1997) Pierce Brosnan, Michelle Yeoh. 10.55 London Kills. 12.00 Lost Relic Hunters. 1.00 Creflo. 1.30 Late Programs.

9GEM (81) 6.00 Seaway. 7.00 Creflo. 7.30 Skippy. 8.00 TV Shop. 10.30 Pointless. 11.30 My Favorite Martian. 12.00 Days Of Our Lives. 12.55 The Young And The Restless. 1.50 To The Manor Born. 2.55 Antiques Roadshow. 3.25 MOVIE: One Million Years B.C. (1966) 5.30 The Travelling Auctioneers. 6.30 Antiques Roadshow. 7.30 The '80s Top Ten. 8.30 MOVIE: Tomorrow Never Dies. (1997) Pierce Brosnan, Michelle Yeoh. 10.55 London Kills. 12.00 Lost Relic Hunters. 1.00 Creflo. 1.30 Late Programs.

9GO! (82) 6.00 Morning Programs. 9.00 LEGO Friends: Heartlake Stories. 9.30 Yu-Gi-Oh! Sevens. 10.00 Ninjago. 10.30 Pokémon Ultimate Journeys. 11.00 Transformers: Prime. 11.30 Teen Titans Go! 12.00 Survivor 47. Final. 2.00 The Golden Girls. 2.30 The Nanny. 3.30 Seinfeld. 4.30 The Addams Family. 5.00 Bewitched. 5.30 I Dream Of Jeannie. 6.00 The Golden Girls. 6.30 The Nanny. 7.30 Survivor 47. 9.30 MOVIE: The Infiltrator. (2016) Bryan Cranston. 12.00 Late Programs.

TEN (5) 6.00 Morning Programs. 7.30 Farm To Fork. 8.00 Neighbours. 8.30 Bold. 9.00 Drew Barrymore. 10.00 Judge Judy. 10.30 Jamie Oliver: Christmas. 11.30 Ent. Tonight. 12.00 Farm To Fork. 12.30 Family Feud. 1.00 News. 2.00 Wheel Of Fortune. 2.30 Lingo. 3.30 News. 4.00 Neighbours. 4.30 Bold. 5.00 Deal Or No Deal. 6.30 The Project. 7.30 Jamie Oliver: Christmas. 8.30 MOVIE: Mean Girls. (2004) Lindsay Lohan. 10.30 News. 10.55 The Project. 12.00 Late Programs.

10 BOLD (53) 6.00 Shopping. 8.00 Australia By Design: Architecture. 8.30 Diagnosis Murder. 10.30 JAG. 12.30 Bondi Rescue. 1.30 Star Trek: Voyager. 2.30 Jake And The Fatman. 3.30 Diagnosis Murder. 5.30 JAG. 7.30 Blue Bloods. 8.30 Fire Country. 10.20 FBI: Most Wanted. 11.15 Evil. 12.15 Shopping. 2.15 Diagnosis Murder. 4.05 JAG.

10 PEACH (52) 6.00 Morning Programs. 8.00 Lingo. 9.00 Deal Or No Deal. 9.30 Becker. 10.00 The Neighborhood. 10.30 King Of Queens. 11.00 Friends. 12.00 Big Bang. 1.00 Christmas With Australian Women's Weekly. 2.00 Becker. 2.30 Frasier. 3.30 The Neighborhood. 4.00 Farm To Fork. 4.30 King Of Queens. 5.00 Becker. 5.30 Frasier. 6.30 Neighbours. 7.00 Friends. 8.00 Big Bang. 9.30 Two And A Half Men. 10.30 The Neighborhood. 11.00 Impractical Jokers. 11.30 Late Programs.



Research: Wheat Falling Number May Improve After Storage



• Dr Cassandra Walker (left) and Pankaj Maharjan from Agriculture Victoria Research Crop Quality team.

Grain growers generally experience anxiety when the falling number test machine comes out at harvest, but new preliminary research findings suggest that wheat falling number test results could improve with time in storage.

The findings are part of a new research investment by GRDC and Agriculture Victoria supported by New South Wales Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (NSW DPIRD) and LongReach Plant Breeders.

This research explored the possibility of falling number test results improving due to grain being stored. While growers have reported this anecdotally, until now the concept had not been scientifically tested.

GRDC Grain Storage Extension Team lead Chris Warrick said trials by Agriculture Victoria's research team at Horsham SmartFarm indicated wheat falling number could increase by up to 50 seconds and even exceed 300 seconds post storage. In contrast, barley did not show an increase and further research was needed to understand the differences.

While Mr Warrick said the preliminary results were encouraging, further research was needed to test the results across more varieties to better understand how growing and storage conditions might influence a change in falling number.

Preliminary findings indicate:

Wheat with an initial falling number test result exceeding 250 seconds has the potential to increase and surpass the 300-second threshold required for various Australian wheat grades during storage.

While cold storage is best for mould and insect prevention, storing wheat at 25-30°C may increase the likelihood of increasing the falling number test results compared to colder temperatures.

The wheat used in this research had a moisture content of 11 per cent and was stored at 45 per cent humidity. The impact of varying moisture levels on falling number changes is still unknown.

Preliminary research shows that increasing the falling number by 40-50 seconds took 4-6 months.

Agriculture Victoria research leader Dr Cassandra Walker said research found that where wheat had an initial falling number of less than 250 seconds, no change in falling number was observed.

"We are not talking about magic, specific storage conditions are essentially an attempt to stop the very early stages of germination," she said.

Mr Warrick said while the research was preliminary it had yet to be replicated in farm storage conditions.

"We are sharing these early results to give growers

the opportunity to decide if they want to try storing wheat that doesn't quite make the 300 second falling number test and see if it improves with storage," Mr Warrick said.

"We certainly don't want to create an expectation that these results will be replicated in all conditions, there are still many variables and influences we need to understand through further research."

Mr Warrick reminded growers that aside from falling number considerations with storage it was also critical they prioritised safe grain storage practices, including regular monitoring of grain temperature and moisture, and using a sieve and probe traps to detect insects.

"It would be counterproductive if we chase an increase in falling number at the expense of letting grain go mouldy or become damaged from insect pests such as weevils," he said.

"We aim to cool grain immediately after harvest to maintain seed viability, preserve grain colour, prevent mould, and deter insects."

Mr Warrick said in theory operating aeration cooling fans as usual for the initial phases as soon as the storage was full, then reducing fan runtime once grain temperature was in the 25-30 degree Celsius range, to delay further cooling for grain moderately low in falling number could

have positive outcomes for the falling number test result.

"As soon as the target falling number result is reached, if it's reached, then aeration cooling would be continued to provide safer storage conditions, reducing the chance of spoilage from mould or insects," he said.

Mr Warrick said the research could have significant benefits for Australian growers if well managed storage could help wheat reach the next grade to return an extra \$50-\$150/tonne.

"GRDC's proactive approach in recognising the opportunity to conduct preliminary research when conditions presented at short notice could prove a major game changer for growers," he said.

"This research would not have been possible without the prompt co-operation and investment from GRDC and the support from the Agriculture Victoria Research Horsham SmartFarm team and NSW DPIRD field trials team, along with LongReach Plant Breeders who provided samples."

For more information on managing grain in storage, download a copy of the GRDC Grain Storage GrowNotes from stored-grain.com.au or call your nearest grain storage specialist on 1800 WEEVIL (1800 933 845).

Caution Feeding Cereal Straw in the Lead-up to Joining

Livestock Industry Development Officer Dr Hannah Manning

Disappointing spring pasture growth in western and northern Victoria means farmers are turning to alternative feed sources to help ewes regain condition after lambing.

Regaining the condition that has been lost through lactation is critical to a successful joining.

While there is plenty of cereal straw available in most regions, straw will not provide the nutrition required by most livestock. Cereal straw tends to be low in both energy and protein and is almost always high in fibre.

It can be a valuable fibre source to complement a high-grain diet when no other fibre source (like pasture or hay) is available.

Feeds with low potential for liveweight gain (such as straw) are characterised by 2 factors: animals can't eat very much of it and what they can eat doesn't yield much energy or protein.

The high fibre percentage in straw limits how much animals can consume – it takes so long to be broken down in the rumen that it moves very slowly through the digestive tract.

Cereal straw can take up to 48 hours to pass through the rumen, while a more digestible, higher quality feed can pass through the rumen in under 12 hours.

To put weight on ewes, energy is the most important in-

redient, followed closely by protein.

To make sure adequate weight gains can be achieved on a straw-based diet, it is likely the straw will need to be matched with a high-energy and protein supplement.

To be able to balance the ration and make sure it has sufficient energy, it's important to know the feed quality of the straw and grain you will be feeding, even if they came from your own property.

Knowing the quality of the feed you have on hand enables you to create a ration that meets the nutritive needs of your stock.

Many producers have taken a failed crop and added value to it by baling it for hay.

While there is a quality v. quantity trade-off between having sufficient dry matter to cut and the decline in feed quality as the crop matures and/or dries out, in many cases this becomes a worthwhile feed source.

Once again, it's important to check the feed quality of the hay by doing a feedtest.

Then you can work out an effective ration for the lowest



cost and add the required amount of energy to reach the target level of animal performance.

There are a number of easily accessible resources that outline the common values of feeds and animal requirements for energy and protein (sheep):

www.feedinglivestock.vic.gov.au/sheep-resources/useful-tables-sheep

Understanding the energy, protein and fibre levels of your feeds is one half of a feed budget. The other half is knowing the energy, protein and fibre requirements of the animals you are feeding.

Lifetime Wool has shown that the number of lambs born is directly related to condition scores at joining, assuming ewe condition can be maintained during pregnancy.

Where breeding ewes are in lighter than ideal condition, a rising plane of nutrition in the lead-up to joining increases conception rates.

Keeping stock in good condition gives you options if you decide to sell later. Putting on condition is more costly than maintaining condition, so feeding early is the best strategy.

A webinar with Jillian Kelly, a veterinary nutritionist from AHN Consulting, on the importance of nutrition in drought conditions is available at Agriculture Victoria's Feeding Livestock website.

The NSW Drought Feed Calculator app is free and user-friendly. Find out more at Drought and Supplementary Feed Calculator.



What's On

2025 Tri-State Heavy Vehicles and Harvest Forum

A free Heavy Vehicles forum with an agricultural vehicles theme.

Presentations by: NSW and Victoria Police; WorkSafe Vic and SafeWork NSW; Wentworth and Mildura councils; Transport for NSW Local Industry demonstrations and more!

When: January 23, 2025 8 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Where: Mildura - Sunitafe 453 Benetook Avenue

Visit the Eventbrite page to learn more and register: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2025-tri-state-heavy-vehicles-and-harvest-forum-tickets-1044569484447?aff=ebdssbdest-search&keep_tld=1

BCG Trials Day

BCG's Members' Only Trials Review Day will be held on 21 February 2025.

Members are invited to join BCG to hear the latest updates to improve the productivity and profitability for your farm business.

When: February 21, 2025, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Where: Birchip Community Centre, Morrison Street
https://www.bcg.org.au/event/trials-review-day-2025/#tribe-tickets_tickets-form

GRDC Grains Research Update

SAVE THE DATE: The GRDC Grains Research Update 2-Day events are for agronomists, consultants, researchers and growers to see and discuss the latest in research and to network with their peers about how to apply new and relevant information to the latest farming systems.

When: February 25-26, 2025, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Where: Bendigo - Ulumbarra Theatre, Gaol Road

Can Sheep Help Manage Feathertop Rhodes Grass?

(With Dr Asad (Md) Asaduzzaman, weeds researcher, Charles Sturt University.)

Feathertop Rhodes grass is an invasive weed that has rapidly spread across all grain-growing regions in Australia. It is notoriously hard to kill with single herbicide applications and is a prolific and rapid seed producer.

Dr Asad (Md) Asaduzzaman, a weeds researcher at Charles Sturt University, says there is good evidence that sheep grazing young feathertop Rhodes grass can effectively reduce seed set.

“Interestingly, feathertop Rhodes grass is very palatable and has high protein when the plants are young,” he says. “Integrating grazing and herbicide treatments can significantly impact the seed bank of this challenging weed.”

“The small seed is readily damaged as it passes through the sheep’s gut, rendering over 99 per cent of the mature seed consumed unviable. Making silage from feathertop Rhodes grass with mature seed heads also reduced seed viability by 65 to 95 per cent, depending on the population.”

Grazing Trials

The grazing trials have investigated the optimal timing and frequency of grazing and the chance of the weed spreading in animal faeces.

“Employing grazing as a non-herbicide tactic for feathertop Rhodes grass can make productive use of the weed and starve the plants of carbohydrates, which results in

smaller seed heads and fewer seeds,” says Asad. “It is reassuring to know that only a minute number of mature seeds will remain viable after grazing or making and feeding out silage.”

The purpose of the WeedSmart Big 6 is to develop robust weed management strategies that help growers reduce the weed seed bank and grow profitable crops. Growers who run mixed farming operations have the opportunity to integrate grazing strategies to target weeds like feathertop Rhodes (FTR) grass.

What If...?

What is the benefit if grazing does not kill the FTR grass plants?

FTR grass is now widely distributed and naturalised throughout Australian cropping and pastoral regions. It has a long growing period (September to June), and many populations are resistant to glyphosate. Group 1 herbicides are effective, but there is a high risk of evolving resistance to this mode of action group.

Features

One of the features of FTR grass is its ability to produce multiple seed heads from very small plants shortly after minor falls of rain. Although grazing does not kill FTR grass, it can delay and reduce the number of seedheads produced on stressed plants while they are less susceptible to herbicide treatments. Digestion also renders any mature seed unviable.

When conditions are suitable, herbicide application will be more effective, and due to earlier grazing, less seed will have entered the seed bank.

Although digestion in the sheep’s rumen renders mature seed unviable, it is advisable to avoid grazing tall stands of FTR grass because the tiny seed can easily be distributed on feet, skin/wool and vehicles.

If sheep have consumed mature FTR grass seed heads, quarantine them for a week to allow the small amount of viable seeds to be excreted.

Effect

What effect did grazing have on FTR grass biomass and seed production?



• Dr. Asad Asaduzzaman.

The first of two grazing trials in 2020 showed that multiple grazing events in late March and through April reduced the number of spikelets per seed head from 12 in the no-graze control to 9 in the multiple-grazing treatment. This resulted in a 73 per cent reduction in seed production compared to the no-grazing control treatment.

In December 2023, another trial also showed that multiple grazing events prior to the summer fallow reduced seed production by 61 per cent compared to the no-grazing control treatment. Applying herbicide either before or

after the late grazing event had a significant additive effect to further lower seed production. These plants produced only one seedhead per plant compared to 16 in the no-grazing treatment.

When the FTR grass was sprayed with glyphosate (Group 9 [M]) before the late grazing event, there was an 88 per cent reduction in seed production. Similarly, applying haloxyfop (Group 1 [A]) after the late grazing event reduced seed production by 87 per cent.

Strategy

What is a strong and practical strategy to implement using sheep to manage FTR grass?

At tillering, FTR grass is a valuable feed source that offers 17 per cent crude protein and 10.7 MJ/Kg DM, both on par with annual ryegrass in its vegetative phase. In southern grain cropping regions, FTR grass tillers in spring and early summer, so these are good times to use grazing to

reduce seed set and seed production.

Valuable Addition

Glyphosate is a valuable addition to the spring grazing strategy before sowing a competitive winter crop to minimise in-crop germination before harvest. After harvest, a combination of grazing followed by haloxyfop (preferably double knocked to kill any survivors) will help keep summer weed numbers down.

Grazing moisture-stressed plants over summer is likely to be more effective on FTR grass than applying herbicide. Advanced weed plants under moisture stress are often less responsive to herbicide application. Therefore, grazing can keep stressed plants under control and limit seed production until spraying conditions are suitable for maximum control efficacy.

Ecological weed management often relies on the combined impact of “many little hammers”, a principle that resonates through the WeedSmart Big 6 strategy.

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

Phone: **1800 498 550**

Project Website: www.corackeastwind.com.au

ACEN Australia Website: www.acenrenewables.com.au



CFA Rip-Off Confirmed By Minister

In an extraordinary admission by the Emergency Services Minister on Wednesday, all Country Fire Authority (CFA) volunteers across Victoria now know what a raw deal they are getting.

Despite increasing the Fire Service Levy by an estimated \$186 million dollars this year, the Minister has admitted that only nine per cent of the increased revenue will flow through to struggling volunteer CFA brigades.

With aging trucks and equipment across the state putting volunteer lives at risk, and country communities contributing millions of dollars to the tax increase, the Government must give a full account of where the missing millions have been spent.

Shadow Minister for Emergency Services, Richard Riordan, said: “Country Victorians are contributing millions of dollars extra in tax, as



well as thousands of volunteer hours to keep Victoria fire safe and yet the Allan Labor Government has chosen to tax the country and spend the money in Melbourne.

“Minister Symes must immediately tell Victorians where the Fire Service levy is being spent following the admission today that only nine per cent of the money collected from regional Victorians will be given back.”

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Donald Bowlers Win at Charlton

A very pleasant overcast day with a nice breeze saw Donald win two rinks to one and 82/75.

Donald first division travelled to Charlton to find a depleted team, due to many players not available. Charlton was not able to field a Div. two.

Bill Heggarty's lot with Luke Kelly, Tom Gravestocks and Jimmy Meyer set the scene getting 8 shots on their third end and roaring to 26/6 at the break. Charlton's Kevin Willey team was coming back in the last half after a long gruelling day on a tricky green to see Donald, 10 shots up at the end 36/26.

Norm Hollis with Lindy Morgan, John Howley and Ian McEwen had a see-sawing match against Ken North's four. Down 11/16 at the break saw a comeback, later scoring 16/7 to finish 3 up on the day, 26/23.

Hunter Wingfield with Jack Collins, Trevor Farrer and Ev Adams, in front at the break but only won 4 ends in the second half to go down by 6 shots to Stephen Perry 20/26.

Men's pairs scheduled for tomorrow (Wednesday) names in by 6.30 p.m. today.

Christmas break-up next Saturday and the annual hamper draw.

As the year comes to a close and the season break, this scribe wishes all bowlers a very merry Christmas and a safe new year.

- Tiger in the Ditch.



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WIN \$10,000 & make this christmas *Merry*

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Buloke Shire
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Donald Field & Game
Donald Friends & Neighbours
Donald Hardware/GJR/Firearms
Donald Hotel/Mel's Shines
Donald IGA
Donald Learning Group
Donald Lions Club
Donald Mensland

Donald Motor Lodge
Donald Newsagency
Donald Pharmacy
Donald Plumbing & Air Conditioning
Donald Post Office
Donald Riverside Motel
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Donald Timber Yard
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Wimmera-Mallee Cricket Scoreboard

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<p>Round 8:</p> <p>"A" Grade Donald-Jeffcott d. St. Mary's DONALD-JEFFCOTT</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td>C. Anderson, lbw B. Watts</td><td>18</td></tr> <tr><td>E. Landwehr, c B. Watts b H. Nixon</td><td>50</td></tr> <tr><td>Fill-in, b W. Allan</td><td>9</td></tr> <tr><td>L. Jones, run out D. Westerland</td><td>42</td></tr> <tr><td>R. Bath, c N. Priest b C. Schmidt</td><td>13</td></tr> <tr><td>J. Needs, c&b H. Nixon</td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>L. Rice, run out B. Watts</td><td>18</td></tr> <tr><td>N. Atkins, not out</td><td>22</td></tr> <tr><td>Sundries</td><td>5</td></tr> <tr><td>TOTAL (for 7 wickets)</td><td>178</td></tr> <tr><td>Fall of wicket: 48, 59, 93, 116, 117, 147, 178.</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>Bowling: B. Dennes 0/51 (8), W. Allan 1/42 (8), B. Watts 1/38 (8), H. Nixon 2/31 (8), C. Schmidt 1/14 (8).</td><td></td></tr> </table> <p style="text-align: center;">ST. MARY'S</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td>D. Westerland, b E. Landwehr</td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>N. Germano, b C. Anderson</td><td>30</td></tr> <tr><td>C. Schmidt, st R. Bath b L. Rice</td><td>34</td></tr> <tr><td>W. Allan, c R. Bath b C. Anderson</td><td>5</td></tr> <tr><td>B. Watts, c ? b L. Rice</td><td>0</td></tr> <tr><td>B. Dennes, run out</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr><td>N. Priest, b E. Landwehr</td><td>16</td></tr> <tr><td>S. Zanker, b C. Anderson</td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>C. Smith, lbw N. Atkins</td><td>21</td></tr> <tr><td>P. Rowe, not out</td><td>4</td></tr> <tr><td>H. Nixon, b N. Atkins</td><td>0</td></tr> <tr><td>Sundries</td><td>7</td></tr> <tr><td>TOTAL (for 10 wickets)</td><td>121</td></tr> </table>	C. Anderson, lbw B. Watts	18	E. Landwehr, c B. Watts b H. Nixon	50	Fill-in, b W. Allan	9	L. Jones, run out D. Westerland	42	R. Bath, c N. Priest b C. Schmidt	13	J. Needs, c&b H. Nixon	1	L. Rice, run out B. Watts	18	N. Atkins, not out	22	Sundries	5	TOTAL (for 7 wickets)	178	Fall of wicket: 48, 59, 93, 116, 117, 147, 178.		Bowling: B. Dennes 0/51 (8), W. Allan 1/42 (8), B. Watts 1/38 (8), H. Nixon 2/31 (8), C. Schmidt 1/14 (8).		D. Westerland, b E. Landwehr	1	N. Germano, b C. Anderson	30	C. Schmidt, st R. Bath b L. Rice	34	W. Allan, c R. Bath b C. Anderson	5	B. Watts, c ? b L. Rice	0	B. Dennes, run out	2	N. Priest, b E. Landwehr	16	S. Zanker, b C. Anderson	1	C. Smith, lbw N. Atkins	21	P. Rowe, not out	4	H. Nixon, b N. Atkins	0	Sundries	7	TOTAL (for 10 wickets)	121	<p>Fall of wicket: 9, 60, 72, 72, 74, 74, 84, 99, 121, 121.</p> <p>Bowling: E. Landwehr 2/13 (8), N. Atkins 2/32 (5.3), C. Anderson 3/22 (8), J. Needs 0/10 (3), L. Rice 2/39 (8), L. Jones 0/1 (1).</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Marnoo d. Birchip BIRCHIP</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td>C. Lee, c D. Lang b B. Newton</td><td>3</td></tr> <tr><td>H. McCredden, c N. Baird b B. Newton</td><td>9</td></tr> <tr><td>J. Paley, c N. Baird b D. Lang</td><td>18</td></tr> <tr><td>R. Doran, c D. Lang b J. McAllister</td><td>19</td></tr> <tr><td>R. Smith, c J. McAllister b D. Lang</td><td>4</td></tr> <tr><td>W. Marks, c T. Caldwell b J. McAllister</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr><td>L. Randall, c N. Baird b D. Lang</td><td>3</td></tr> <tr><td>J. Randall, c J. McAllister b T. Caldwell</td><td>3</td></tr> <tr><td>J. Emonson, lbw D. Lang</td><td>3</td></tr> <tr><td>R. Bennett, st N. Baird b B. Newton</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr><td>Fill-in, not out</td><td>0</td></tr> <tr><td>Sundries</td><td>6</td></tr> <tr><td>TOTAL (for 10 wickets)</td><td>68</td></tr> <tr><td>Bowling: C. Reading 0/17 (4), B. Newton 3/14 (6.5), D. Lang 4/11 (8), J. McAllister 2/20 (6), T. Caldwell 1/0 (2).</td><td></td></tr> </table> <p style="text-align: center;">MARNOO</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td>J. Duxson, b R. Smith</td><td>16</td></tr> <tr><td>D. Lang, b R. Doran</td><td>5</td></tr> <tr><td>B. Newton, c&b C. Lee</td><td>0</td></tr> <tr><td>B. Cameron, not out</td><td>13</td></tr> <tr><td>N. Baird, not out</td><td>29</td></tr> <tr><td>Sundries</td><td>9</td></tr> <tr><td>TOTAL (for 3 wickets)</td><td>72</td></tr> </table>	C. Lee, c D. Lang b B. Newton	3	H. McCredden, c N. Baird b B. Newton	9	J. Paley, c N. Baird b D. Lang	18	R. Doran, c D. Lang b J. McAllister	19	R. Smith, c J. McAllister b D. Lang	4	W. Marks, c T. Caldwell b J. McAllister	2	L. Randall, c N. Baird b D. Lang	3	J. Randall, c J. McAllister b T. Caldwell	3	J. Emonson, lbw D. Lang	3	R. Bennett, st N. Baird b B. Newton	2	Fill-in, not out	0	Sundries	6	TOTAL (for 10 wickets)	68	Bowling: C. Reading 0/17 (4), B. Newton 3/14 (6.5), D. Lang 4/11 (8), J. McAllister 2/20 (6), T. Caldwell 1/0 (2).		J. Duxson, b R. Smith	16	D. Lang, b R. Doran	5	B. Newton, c&b C. Lee	0	B. Cameron, not out	13	N. Baird, not out	29	Sundries	9	TOTAL (for 3 wickets)	72	<p>Bowling: J. Randall 0/21 (3.4), R. Doran 1/17 (6), R. Smith 1/10 (5), C. Lee 1/18 (6).</p> <p>St. Arnaud d. Southern Mallee Giants SOUTHERN MALLEE GIANTS</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td>L. Hateley, lbw L. Patching</td><td>4</td></tr> <tr><td>J. Kiem, c K. Torney b L. Patching</td><td>7</td></tr> <tr><td>J. Flavel, c B. Williams b J. Patching</td><td>11</td></tr> <tr><td>L. Mitchell, b L. Patching</td><td>0</td></tr> <tr><td>J. Moore, c M. Stones b K. Torney</td><td>6</td></tr> <tr><td>C. Castleman, lbw L. Patching</td><td>0</td></tr> <tr><td>K. Bellinger, b L. Patching</td><td>0</td></tr> <tr><td>J. Moore, c M. Stones b K. Torney</td><td>5</td></tr> <tr><td>A. Madhu, b J. Carroll</td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>J. Vanderburg, not out</td><td>4</td></tr> <tr><td>P. Hallam, b J. Patching</td><td>6</td></tr> <tr><td>Sundries</td><td>12</td></tr> <tr><td>TOTAL (for 10 wickets)</td><td>56</td></tr> <tr><td>Fall of wicket: 5, 22, 22, 22, 24, 31, 36, 39, 56.</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>Bowling: J. Patching 2/17 (7.5), L. Patching 6/16 (8), J. Carroll 1/4 (4), K. Torney 1/11 (2), C. Torney 0/6 (2).</td><td></td></tr> </table> <p style="text-align: center;">ST. ARNAUD</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td>D. Carter, lbw C. Castleman</td><td>17</td></tr> <tr><td>B. Williams, c D. Shannon b Castleman</td><td>7</td></tr> <tr><td>M. Delzotto, not out</td><td>8</td></tr> <tr><td>K. Torney, c C. Castleman b L. Mitchell</td><td>0</td></tr> <tr><td>N. Gorrie, not out</td><td>14</td></tr> <tr><td>Sundries</td><td>11</td></tr> <tr><td>TOTAL (for 3 wickets)</td><td>57</td></tr> <tr><td>Fall of wicket: 29, 34, 35.</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>Bowling: J. Flavel 0/4 (5), J. Moore 0/12 (5), C. Castleman 2/5 (6), L. Mitchell 1/27 (6.4), M. Roberts 0/5 (1).</td><td></td></tr> </table>	L. Hateley, lbw L. Patching	4	J. Kiem, c K. Torney b L. Patching	7	J. Flavel, c B. Williams b J. Patching	11	L. Mitchell, b L. Patching	0	J. Moore, c M. Stones b K. Torney	6	C. Castleman, lbw L. Patching	0	K. Bellinger, b L. Patching	0	J. Moore, c M. Stones b K. Torney	5	A. Madhu, b J. Carroll	1	J. Vanderburg, not out	4	P. Hallam, b J. Patching	6	Sundries	12	TOTAL (for 10 wickets)	56	Fall of wicket: 5, 22, 22, 22, 24, 31, 36, 39, 56.		Bowling: J. Patching 2/17 (7.5), L. Patching 6/16 (8), J. Carroll 1/4 (4), K. Torney 1/11 (2), C. Torney 0/6 (2).		D. Carter, lbw C. Castleman	17	B. Williams, c D. Shannon b Castleman	7	M. Delzotto, not out	8	K. Torney, c C. Castleman b L. Mitchell	0	N. Gorrie, not out	14	Sundries	11	TOTAL (for 3 wickets)	57	Fall of wicket: 29, 34, 35.		Bowling: J. Flavel 0/4 (5), J. Moore 0/12 (5), C. Castleman 2/5 (6), L. Mitchell 1/27 (6.4), M. Roberts 0/5 (1).		<p style="text-align: center;">"B" Grade Donald-Jeffcott d. St. Mary's DONALD-JEFFCOTT</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td>J. Tellefson, c A. Keys b C. Hartnett</td><td>49</td></tr> <tr><td>S. Postlethwaite, c K. Zanker b Toscano</td><td>18</td></tr> <tr><td>A. Bayles, not out</td><td>142</td></tr> <tr><td>T. Reekie, lbw C. Hartnett</td><td>15</td></tr> <tr><td>K. Green, not out</td><td>58</td></tr> <tr><td>Sundries</td><td>8</td></tr> <tr><td>TOTAL (for 3 wickets)</td><td>290</td></tr> <tr><td>Fall of wicket: 26, 116, 145.</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>Bowling: A. Keys 0/38 (8), N. Toscano 1/51 (8), J. Evans 0/13 (1), C. Hartnett 2/25 (8), R. Adams 0/38 (3), J. Hartnett 0/30 (3), C. Preston 0/49 (4), M. Hartnett 0/25 (3), S. Knorpp 0/13 (1), J. Smith 0/5 (1).</td><td></td></tr> </table> <p style="text-align: center;">ST. MARY'S</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td>K. Zanker, b N. Nanayakkara</td><td>18</td></tr> <tr><td>J. Evans, not out</td><td>18</td></tr> <tr><td>N. Toscano, c K. Green b T. Reekie</td><td>29</td></tr> <tr><td>A. Keys, c T. Reekie b D. Letts</td><td>4</td></tr> <tr><td>R. Adams, c T. Reekie b D. Letts</td><td>21</td></tr> <tr><td>S. Knorpp, c K. Green b Fill-in</td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>M. Hartnett, not out</td><td>5</td></tr> <tr><td>Sundries</td><td>21</td></tr> <tr><td>TOTAL (for 5 wickets)</td><td>117</td></tr> <tr><td>Fall of wicket: 28, 72, 76, 102, 103.</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>Bowling: T. Reekie 1/16 (8), C. Rice 0/14 (5), N. Nanayakkara 1/14 (8), C. Campbell 0/11 (5), D. Letts 2/38 (8), D. Ethakada 0/9 (1), S. Postlethwaite 0/5 (3), D. Cooper 1/7 (2).</td><td></td></tr> </table>	J. Tellefson, c A. Keys b C. Hartnett	49	S. Postlethwaite, c K. Zanker b Toscano	18	A. Bayles, not out	142	T. Reekie, lbw C. Hartnett	15	K. Green, not out	58	Sundries	8	TOTAL (for 3 wickets)	290	Fall of wicket: 26, 116, 145.		Bowling: A. Keys 0/38 (8), N. Toscano 1/51 (8), J. Evans 0/13 (1), C. Hartnett 2/25 (8), R. Adams 0/38 (3), J. Hartnett 0/30 (3), C. Preston 0/49 (4), M. Hartnett 0/25 (3), S. Knorpp 0/13 (1), J. Smith 0/5 (1).		K. Zanker, b N. Nanayakkara	18	J. Evans, not out	18	N. Toscano, c K. Green b T. Reekie	29	A. Keys, c T. Reekie b D. Letts	4	R. Adams, c T. Reekie b D. Letts	21	S. Knorpp, c K. Green b Fill-in	1	M. Hartnett, not out	5	Sundries	21	TOTAL (for 5 wickets)	117	Fall of wicket: 28, 72, 76, 102, 103.		Bowling: T. Reekie 1/16 (8), C. Rice 0/14 (5), N. Nanayakkara 1/14 (8), C. Campbell 0/11 (5), D. Letts 2/38 (8), D. Ethakada 0/9 (1), S. Postlethwaite 0/5 (3), D. Cooper 1/7 (2).		<p style="text-align: center;">Watchem d. Birchip BIRCHIP</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td>J. Knights, b J. Dean</td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>J. Coffey, b T. Colbert</td><td>0</td></tr> <tr><td>Fill-in, b J. Dean</td><td>10</td></tr> <tr><td>Fill-in, b Fill-in</td><td>19</td></tr> <tr><td>K. Hamilton, obstructing field</td><td>7</td></tr> <tr><td>Fill-in, c J. Borden b J. Dean</td><td>26</td></tr> <tr><td>O. Sharp, b D. Tatarskyj</td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>A. Tyler, not out</td><td>5</td></tr> <tr><td>R. Angel, c A. Dean b J. Borden</td><td>0</td></tr> <tr><td>R. Ryan, c A. Dean b N. Dean</td><td>0</td></tr> <tr><td>Sundries</td><td>13</td></tr> <tr><td>TOTAL (for 9 wickets)</td><td>82</td></tr> <tr><td>Fall of wicket: 2, 13, 13, 41, 63, 74, 75, 77, 82.</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>Bowling: T. Colbert 1/4 (4), J. Dean 3/13 (4), J. Woods 0/15 (2), Fill-in 1/23 (5), J. Borden 1/18 (5), D. Tatarskyj 1/1 (1), N. Dean 1/7 (2.5).</td><td></td></tr> </table> <p style="text-align: center;">WATCHEM</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td>R. Hogan, not out</td><td>43</td></tr> <tr><td>J. Borden, b K. Hamilton</td><td>25</td></tr> <tr><td>N. Dean, not out</td><td>13</td></tr> <tr><td>Sundries</td><td>4</td></tr> <tr><td>TOTAL (for 1 wicket)</td><td>85</td></tr> <tr><td>Fall of wicket: 61.</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>Bowling: K. Hamilton 1/43 (6), Fill-in 0/26 (4), Fill-in 0/12 (1.3).</td><td></td></tr> </table> <p style="text-align: center;">Charlton d. Southern Mallee Giants by forfeit.</p>	J. Knights, b J. Dean	1	J. Coffey, b T. Colbert	0	Fill-in, b J. Dean	10	Fill-in, b Fill-in	19	K. Hamilton, obstructing field	7	Fill-in, c J. Borden b J. Dean	26	O. Sharp, b D. Tatarskyj	1	A. Tyler, not out	5	R. Angel, c A. Dean b J. Borden	0	R. Ryan, c A. Dean b N. Dean	0	Sundries	13	TOTAL (for 9 wickets)	82	Fall of wicket: 2, 13, 13, 41, 63, 74, 75, 77, 82.		Bowling: T. Colbert 1/4 (4), J. Dean 3/13 (4), J. Woods 0/15 (2), Fill-in 1/23 (5), J. Borden 1/18 (5), D. Tatarskyj 1/1 (1), N. Dean 1/7 (2.5).		R. Hogan, not out	43	J. Borden, b K. Hamilton	25	N. Dean, not out	13	Sundries	4	TOTAL (for 1 wicket)	85	Fall of wicket: 61.		Bowling: K. Hamilton 1/43 (6), Fill-in 0/26 (4), Fill-in 0/12 (1.3).	
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B. Williams, c D. Shannon b Castleman	7																																																																																																																																																																																																																																	
M. Delzotto, not out	8																																																																																																																																																																																																																																	
K. Torney, c C. Castleman b L. Mitchell	0																																																																																																																																																																																																																																	
N. Gorrie, not out	14																																																																																																																																																																																																																																	
Sundries	11																																																																																																																																																																																																																																	
TOTAL (for 3 wickets)	57																																																																																																																																																																																																																																	
Fall of wicket: 29, 34, 35.																																																																																																																																																																																																																																		
Bowling: J. Flavel 0/4 (5), J. Moore 0/12 (5), C. Castleman 2/5 (6), L. Mitchell 1/27 (6.4), M. Roberts 0/5 (1).																																																																																																																																																																																																																																		
J. Tellefson, c A. Keys b C. Hartnett	49																																																																																																																																																																																																																																	
S. Postlethwaite, c K. Zanker b Toscano	18																																																																																																																																																																																																																																	
A. Bayles, not out	142																																																																																																																																																																																																																																	
T. Reekie, lbw C. Hartnett	15																																																																																																																																																																																																																																	
K. Green, not out	58																																																																																																																																																																																																																																	
Sundries	8																																																																																																																																																																																																																																	
TOTAL (for 3 wickets)	290																																																																																																																																																																																																																																	
Fall of wicket: 26, 116, 145.																																																																																																																																																																																																																																		
Bowling: A. Keys 0/38 (8), N. Toscano 1/51 (8), J. Evans 0/13 (1), C. Hartnett 2/25 (8), R. Adams 0/38 (3), J. Hartnett 0/30 (3), C. Preston 0/49 (4), M. Hartnett 0/25 (3), S. Knorpp 0/13 (1), J. Smith 0/5 (1).																																																																																																																																																																																																																																		
K. Zanker, b N. Nanayakkara	18																																																																																																																																																																																																																																	
J. Evans, not out	18																																																																																																																																																																																																																																	
N. Toscano, c K. Green b T. Reekie	29																																																																																																																																																																																																																																	
A. Keys, c T. Reekie b D. Letts	4																																																																																																																																																																																																																																	
R. Adams, c T. Reekie b D. Letts	21																																																																																																																																																																																																																																	
S. Knorpp, c K. Green b Fill-in	1																																																																																																																																																																																																																																	
M. Hartnett, not out	5																																																																																																																																																																																																																																	
Sundries	21																																																																																																																																																																																																																																	
TOTAL (for 5 wickets)	117																																																																																																																																																																																																																																	
Fall of wicket: 28, 72, 76, 102, 103.																																																																																																																																																																																																																																		
Bowling: T. Reekie 1/16 (8), C. Rice 0/14 (5), N. Nanayakkara 1/14 (8), C. Campbell 0/11 (5), D. Letts 2/38 (8), D. Ethakada 0/9 (1), S. Postlethwaite 0/5 (3), D. Cooper 1/7 (2).																																																																																																																																																																																																																																		
J. Knights, b J. Dean	1																																																																																																																																																																																																																																	
J. Coffey, b T. Colbert	0																																																																																																																																																																																																																																	
Fill-in, b J. Dean	10																																																																																																																																																																																																																																	
Fill-in, b Fill-in	19																																																																																																																																																																																																																																	
K. Hamilton, obstructing field	7																																																																																																																																																																																																																																	
Fill-in, c J. Borden b J. Dean	26																																																																																																																																																																																																																																	
O. Sharp, b D. Tatarskyj	1																																																																																																																																																																																																																																	
A. Tyler, not out	5																																																																																																																																																																																																																																	
R. Angel, c A. Dean b J. Borden	0																																																																																																																																																																																																																																	
R. Ryan, c A. Dean b N. Dean	0																																																																																																																																																																																																																																	
Sundries	13																																																																																																																																																																																																																																	
TOTAL (for 9 wickets)	82																																																																																																																																																																																																																																	
Fall of wicket: 2, 13, 13, 41, 63, 74, 75, 77, 82.																																																																																																																																																																																																																																		
Bowling: T. Colbert 1/4 (4), J. Dean 3/13 (4), J. Woods 0/15 (2), Fill-in 1/23 (5), J. Borden 1/18 (5), D. Tatarskyj 1/1 (1), N. Dean 1/7 (2.5).																																																																																																																																																																																																																																		
R. Hogan, not out	43																																																																																																																																																																																																																																	
J. Borden, b K. Hamilton	25																																																																																																																																																																																																																																	
N. Dean, not out	13																																																																																																																																																																																																																																	
Sundries	4																																																																																																																																																																																																																																	
TOTAL (for 1 wicket)	85																																																																																																																																																																																																																																	
Fall of wicket: 61.																																																																																																																																																																																																																																		
Bowling: K. Hamilton 1/43 (6), Fill-in 0/26 (4), Fill-in 0/12 (1.3).																																																																																																																																																																																																																																		



• Donald Jeffcott's Kalon Green enjoyed himself with an unbeaten 58.

Bayles Brilliance Back in Town

• Continued from page 16.
"B" Grade

As already mentioned, the game at Donald was a batting master class by Andrew Bayles and Kalon Green, with more than competent support by captain Jack Tellefson 49, Sam Postlethwaite 18, and Tom Reekie 15. Sharing the wickets to fall were St. Mary's Chad Hartnett 2/25 (8), Nick Toscano 1/51 (8), Donald-Jeffcott's total was 3/290. Chasing this mammoth score, St. Mary's batted out its

40 overs for a final tally 5/117, of which Nick Toscano scored 29, captain Kael Zanker 18, Jack Evans 18 not out and Riley Adams 21. For Donald-Jeffcott, David Letts took 2/38, Tom Reekie 1/16(8), and Niluka Nanayakkara 1/14 (8).

At Watchem, it was three "fill-ins" who topped the batting for Birchip, with scores of 26, 19 and 10, and the Swans' innings came to an end at 9/82 in 23.5 overs. Doing the most damage for

the Panthers was Jeremy Dean, 3/13 (4), while single wicket-takers were Ty Colbert, Jam Borden, Daniel Tatarskyj, and Noah Dean. A confident Watchem then hit the front at 85 in 11.3 overs losing only one wicket in the process. Riley Hogan scored 43 not out, Jam Borden 25, and Noah Dean 13 not out.

The other scheduled "B" grade game was forfeited to Charlton by Southern Mallee Giants.

Bowlers Prepare for Festive Season Break

• Continued from page 16.

Due to unavailability of players, Charlton was forced to forfeit its match against Donald, which was awarded the 12 points.

Wycheproof and Wedderburn appear to be firmly ensconced in the top two positions in Div 1, while a three-team race is developing between St. Arnaud Country Club, St. Arnaud and Donald

Golf, for third and fourth places, with finals looming.

Details:

St. Arnaud Country Club 70-12 d. St. Arnaud 55-0.

Chris Webb 26 d. Laurence Goodwin 14, Arnold Bond 20 d. Kerryn Dyke 19, John Needs 24 d. Lloyd Goddard 22.

Charlton 0 points forfeited to Donald, 10 points.

Wedderburn 76-11 d. Boort 58-1.

Ian Hall 23 d. Greg Smith 17, Lance Standfield 21 drew with Joan Earl 21, John Grant 32 d. Tony Matley 20.

Wycheproof 89-12 d. Donald Golf 51-0.

Eric Rayes 32 d. Brenda Dixon 14, George Coatsworth 34 d. Lindsay Borden 17, Paul Connolly 23 d. George Wood 20.



• Artie Allan and Stan Prater watching the bowls action. Artie who lives in Mandurah W.A. is also home for the festive season.



• Returning back home from Queensland for a period of time is Faye Whittaker. Faye and husband, Ray, are both playing for the Wycheproof Bowls Club.



• Congratulations to Dean Bennet, Joshua Woods, Johnathan Woods, McKenzie Richards, Bradley McNally, Tim McNally on promotion to 9th Gup (which is first belt level, Yellow).

Taekwondo Students Shine

(By Phill Zdybel)

The Buloke Shire congratulates Buloke Taekwondo students hitting another milestone.

The group's instructor was very happy to see all the students successfully in demonstrate what they have learned to date, such as the ability to do and perform fundamental strength and condition training.

Additionally, a balance and an understanding of basic terminology to go along with a demonstration of fundamental kicking, as well as hand techniques; both block and striking.

So, congratulations and well done to all on the start of your journey to Black Belt. All were promoted to 9th Gup which is the first belt level, yellow.

Many thanks to Andrew Watkins 2nd Degree and

Joshua Zdybel 3rd Degree for attending, along with your little breaking demonstration and making it a successful and achievable for all involved.

If you missed it there is always next time, and it will be kicking off start of school term 2025.

Classes are held every Wednesday at 4 p.m. at St. Mary's School; for more information, call Phill on 0418 513 981.

NORTH CENTRAL PENNANT BOWLS

Positions of Teams, after round 10

DIVISION 1										
	P	W	L	D	Bye	F	A	SD	%	Pts
Wedderburn	10	8	1	1	0	732	551	181	133	92
Donald Golf	10	7	2	1	0	684	556	128	123	82
St. Arnaud	10	6	3	1	0	700	554	146	126	80
Wycheproof	10	5	4	1	0	642	594	48	108	68
St. Arnaud Country Club	10	4	5	1	0	629	645	-16	97	57
Donald	10	4	5	1	0	598	701	-103	85	51
Boort	10	2	7	1	0	606	685	-79	88	38
Charlton	10	0	9	1	0	498	803	-305	62	12

DIVISION 2										
	P	W	L	D	Bye	F	A	SD	%	Pts
Wycheproof	10	7	2	1	0	717	501	216	143	92
Wedderburn	10	6	3	1	0	701	590	111	119	77
St. Arnaud Country Club	10	6	3	1	0	664	589	75	113	69
St. Arnaud	10	5	4	1	0	657	586	71	112	66
Donald Golf	10	5	4	1	0	630	621	9	101	64
Donald	10	3	6	1	0	529	658	-129	80	45
Boort	10	3	6	1	0	578	699	-121	83	40
Charlton	10	1	8	1	0	474	706	-232	67	27



Bayles Brilliance Back in Town

No one was overly surprised when Donald-Jeffcott's Andrew Bayles took charge of the "B" grade game on the Jeffcott ground on Saturday.

Following in the footsteps of his father, Andrew has proved himself to be a batsman-wicketkeeper of exceptional ability. His dad, Brian, starred for A.N.A. and Donald for years, with bat and gloves, reaching the peak of an illustrious career when chosen for a country side to tour New Zealand.

In Saturday's innings against St. Mary's, Andrew belted 142 not out (with 21 fours), while figuring in a near-century partnership with team-mate Kalon Green, 58 not out.

"A" Grade

Ladder leader, Donald-Jeffcott, batted first at Anzac Park, Warracknabeal, where the six players to reach double figures were Eddie Landwehr 50, Lachie Jones 42, Nick Atkins 22 not out, captain Cooper Anderson and Luca Rice 18 each, and Ryan Bath

13, in a total of 7/178. Most successful St. Mary's bowler was Hugh Nixon, 2/31 (8). In reply, top order batters Colby Schmidt 34 and Nick Germano 30 gave St. Mary's a promising start. Nathan Priest followed up with 18, and Sean Smith 21, but the innings fell short at 121 in 33.3 overs. Donald-Jeffcott's multiple wicket-takers were Cooper Anderson 3/22 (8), Eddie Landwehr 2/13 (8), Nick Atkins 2/32 (5.3), and Luca Rice 2/39 (8).

Marnoo's decision to bowl first at Birchip proved to be the right one, with the Swans being dismissed for 68 in 26.5 overs. Against a strong Marnoo attack, Birchip's only double-figure scorers were Riley Doran 19 and James Paley 18. Sharing the wickets were David Lang 4/11 (8), Ben Newton 3/14 (6.5), Jack McAllister 2/20 (6), and Ted

Caldwell 1/0 (2). In passing that total, Marnoo lost a couple of wickets early, but was guided to victory at 3/72 by Jimmy Duxson 16, Nic Baird 29 not out, and Brylie Cameron 13 not out.

Winning the toss at Hopetoun, St. Arnaud chose to bowl again against Southern Mallee Giants. It was an innings dominated by the talented Patching brothers, with Lachie taking 6/16 (8), and Jacob 2/17 (7.5), bringing the total to 10/56 in 23.5 overs. Giants captain Jack Flavel led the batting with 11, but the Saints had set up the game for an early finish. Des Carter 17, and Ned Gorrie 14 not out led the way to a winning score of 3/57 (23.4). Wicket-takers for the Giants were Clint Castleman 2/5 (6) and Luke Mitchell 1/27 (6.4).

• Continued on page 15.



• Another century to Donald Jeffcott "B" grade batsman Andrew Bayles.

Bowlers Prepare for Festive Season Break

North Central Playing Area's weekend pennant competition will take a five-week break following the completion of round 10 on Saturday, with round 11 scheduled to be played on Saturday, January 18.

Ladder leader Wedderburn strengthened its grip after blitzing Boort by 35 shots and banking all 12 points, and currently leads its nearest rival, Donald Golf, by 10 points.

All three Wedderburn skipper's recorded scores of 30 shots or better, Laurie Witham defeating Shayne Morris by 14, Damien Mason accounting for Thelma Moresi by 13, while Alan Jackson finished 8 shots in front of Kevin Depiazza.

Golf ventured to Wycheproof not knowing what to expect in terms of opposition players due to harvesting operations, but returned home with its pockets loaded with 10 points it accumulated from two winning rinks.

Daniel Pettifer led the way for the visitors, out bowling Paul Wellington's line-up, which included visiting Queenslanders Ray and Faye Whittaker, by a margin of 22 shots.

Peter Hibberd finished 12 shots to the better of Jono Grylls, which cancelled out the winning margin enjoyed by Wyche's Grant Allan over Robert Reseigh.

Donald enjoyed its day of bowls, at Charlton's expense, winning two of the three rinks to record a winning margin of 21 shots overall.

Norm Hollis ended up 3 shots in front of Ken North, and Bill Hegarty lowered Kevin Willey's colours after winning by 10 shots.

Steve Perry was the only Charlton skipper to savour

success, downing Hunter Wingfield by 6 shots.

St. Arnaud dominated cross town rival, St. Arnaud Country Club to the tune of 39 shots across the three rinks, the 12 points it pocketed helping to secure its place in the top four, and opening up a 15-point break on the fifth placed Country Club.

Terry McSwain accounted for Jason Abbott by 18 shots, Ashley Dyke got the better of Bill Rodger by 11, and Steve Zsigmond finished 10 shots to the better of Mark Esmore.

Details:

St. Arnaud Country Club 56-0 lost to St. Arnaud 95-12.

Jason Abbott 14 lost to Terry McSwain 32, Bill Rodger 21 lost to Ashley Dyke 32, Mark Esmore 21 lost to Steven Zsigmond 31.

Charlton 75-2 lost to Donald 82-10.

Ken North 23 lost to Norm Hollis 26, Kevin Willey 26 lost to Bill Hegarty 36, Steve Perry 26 d. Hunter Wingfield 20.

Wedderburn 96-12 d. Boort 61-0.

Laurie Witham 34 d. Shayne Morris 20, Damien Mason 32 d. Thelma Moresi 19, Alan Jackson 30 d. Kevin Depiazza 22.

Wycheproof 60-2 lost to Donald Golf 81-10.

Grant Allan 29 d. Robert Reseigh 16, Paul Wellington 14 lost to Daniel Pettifer 36, Jono Grylls 17 lost to Peter Hibberd 29.

Country Club Moves Up

St. Arnaud Country Club's Division 2 players reversed the outcome of their Div. 1 counterparts and gave fellow club members something to celebrate heading into the Festive Season break, after securing a three-rink victory by 15 shots over cross-town rival St. Arnaud.

As a result, St. Arnaud Country Club has jumped into third place on the competition ladder, overtaking St. Arnaud and Donald Golf.

Skippers Chris Webb, Arnold Bond and John Needs all saluted for Country Club, by 12 shots, 1 shot and 2 shots over Laurence Goodwin, Kerry Dyke and Lloyd Goddard respectively.

Donald Golf felt the full force of a strengthened Wycheproof, which bolstered its Div 2 teams with top calibre bowlers, George Coatsworth, who accounted for Lindsay Borden by 17 shots, and Eric Rays, who outscored Brenda Dixon by 18 shots. Paul Connolly completed the trifecta when he accounted for George Wood by 3 shots.

Wedderburn secured the bulk of the points against Boort after Ian Hall defeated Greg Smith by 6 shots and John Grant finished 12 shots in front of Tony Matley.

Joan Earl secured 1 point for the visitors when her rink drew with Lance Standfields's 21-shots apiece.

• Continued on page 15.



• Pick of the St. Mary's bowlers was Chad Hartnett with 2/25.



• The only winning rink in division one for Wycheproof last Saturday was the team skipped by Grant Allan. Here Grant shows his bowling style.