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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



• Doris Jones celebrated her 100th birthday on January 1, 2025.

Doris Joins the Centenarians

(From the Goodwin Village)

Donald's Doris Jones celebrated her 100th Birthday at the Johnson-Goodwin homes on New Years Day – January 1, 2025 with the Residents and Staff of the Goodwin Homes and close family.

Doris was born at home in Meyer Street to Amelia and Walter Golding on January 1, 1925. She was educated in Donald at the Donald Elementary School and completed the last two years as a boarder at Methodist Ladies College in Kew, Melbourne.

Doris married her beloved Graeme, known to us all as "Jonesy" in April 1947, and they had their only daughter Shirley, two years later.

"Jonesy" left us in 2007. She has one grandson Bryce, and is a much loved aunt, great aunt, and great, great aunt to her elder brother's children.

Doris could always be seen in the office of Goldings in Woods Street.

She has always been an active member of our community participating as an office bearer in many organisations. She was an exceptional tennis

player, winning many trophies over the years.

Her daughter, Shirley, thanked the staff at the Johnson-Goodwin Homes for their love and care of Doris, who enjoys being there, participating in daily activities.

Tracey Pearse spoke on behalf of the staff acknowledging Doris's contribution to the Home over the years. Many have been grateful for her assistance.

Under Federal Government . . . Climate Zealotry Takes Priority

The Federal Labor Government's inability to read the international political climate and instead press on with its domestic climate agenda, demonstrates that the Prime Minister isn't focused on the struggles of the Australian people, Member for Mallee Dr Anne Webster said this week.

In the wake of President Trump signing an executive order withdrawing the USA from the Paris Climate Accord on the same day of his 20 January second inauguration, the Federal Government has indicated it will look to work with other countries on reaching greenhouse gas emission reduction targets.

"Over fifty per cent of the world's emissions come from China (30 per cent), the USA (11 per cent), India (8 per cent) and Russia (5 per cent), with China's emissions over four times their 1990 levels and India three times," Dr Webster said.

"Australian emissions are up a mere one quarter of our 1990 emissions, which places

us deep in the bottom half of all nations' emission profile increases. Australians are already doing the heavy lifting to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Railroading

"The Federal Labor Government is railroading regional Australian communities with wind turbines, blanket solar panels, big batteries and 28,000 kilometres of transmission lines (like VNI-West) just to get brownie points on the global stage, but the Trump Administration has hit the brakes.

"Labor made a central promise 97 times in 2022 to reduce Australians' power bills by \$275 and it is now officially broken. One-off quarterly

relief for a year doesn't cut the mustard.

"Labor said its transition to a renewables-only energy grid would cost \$112 billion, but Coalition-revealed modelling showing that Labor's plan will cost \$642 billion.

"Householders are feeling the pain in their power bills with energy prices up 32 per cent nationwide under the Federal Labor Government, before the government's rebates are factored in.

"Mallee small businesses are struggling with rising costs with energy prices a major contributing factor to lost profitability and business closures. Across Australia 27,000 small businesses have already closed

• Continued on page 2.

As Victorians Enjoy Long Weekend . . . Plea for Caution

Road safety authorities are urging motorists to drive safely this long weekend as 21 people have already lost their lives on Victoria's roads.

Transport Accident Commission CEO Tracey Slatter this week called on Victorians to slow down if they're travelling by car and avoid adding to the number of lives lost on our roads.

Tragically, the number of people killed on the state's roads this year (21) is already 24 per cent higher than at the same time last year (17).

Ms Slatter said with many Victorians taking to the road as they head away for the final days of the school holidays and for a long weekend, it was

crucial for everyone to play its role in keeping the roads safe.

"We've already seen too many lives lost on our roads this year and we don't want that to continue," she said.

"Every Victorian has a role to play in keeping people safe on our roads; slow down, put the phone away, wear a seat-belt and never drive while affected by drugs or alcohol.

"There is nothing more important than arriving at your destination safely, and we need to look out for each other on the roads and make sure every journey is a safe one."

Fatigue

Fatigue is a major concern and is a contributing factor in 16-20 per cent of all road crashes in Victoria. Falling asleep behind the wheel for just four seconds while travelling at 100km/h means a car will travel 111 metres.

People planning a road trip should get a good night's sleep, allow for plenty of travel time, take a break from the road every two hours, remove distractions, drive to conditions and if possible, swap drivers.

• Continued on page 2.



• Tanisha Lovett, Butterfly.

Visions of Tomorrow

This February, the Wycheproof Railway Station will transform into a space of storytelling, healing, and connection as part of the "Visions of Tomorrow" workshops and exhibition.

Guided by Gunditjmarra and Wotjobaluk artist Tanisha Lovett and Barkindji Ngiyampaa Maligundidj artist Tracy Wise, the "Visions of Tomorrow" initiative provides up to ten participants with an opportunity to explore artistic traditions,

reflecting on their own connections and local history.

Much like the brushstrokes of European masters such as Rembrandt and Vermeer, which capture the essence of their societies, values, and historical moments, the art of the Barengi

Gadjin people encodes a history that is also profound.

Each symbol tells a story, embodying spiritual and environmental knowledge passed through generations, offering a living archive of heritage and wisdom.

• Continued on page 2.

Enjoy Mallee Hospitality

Locals and visitors are invited to Birchip Memorial Park on Sunday, January 26, to celebrate all things Australian.

The date and origin of Australia Day raises concerns and has negative connotations for some of our community members; however, the celebrations in Birchip are designed to be inclusive, casual and an acknowledgement of

the community spirit, goodwill and freedoms we enjoy in Australia, rather than the date and the historical reasons Australia Day is observed on the 26th January.

The day will commence with a breakfast cooked and

served by volunteers from the Birchip Lions Club and Wirrim CWA, and is followed by an address from a keynote speaker and presentation of awards from Birchip Community Forum Incorporated president Steve Nottle.

New Categories

This year Forum has introduced two new categories alongside the Citizen of the Year, which are Young Citizen of the Year and Community Event of the Year. This will provide some additional intrigue to the formalities and extend the recognition provided to those who contribute time and expertise for the betterment of their community.

The guest speaker is Senior Constable Will Ringin, who recently moved to Birchip with his family to undertake police roles within the Buloke Shire.

The event starts at 8 a.m. with the formalities being conducted by Steve Nottle to get under way at 9 a.m..

Come along and enjoy a morning of festivities with fellow community members and visitors in the area enjoying a long weekend of Mallee hospitality.

Letter to the Editor



A Heartfelt Call to Action

(The Editor, "The Times")

Dear Editor.—As REDFEB, Heart Awareness Month, approaches this February, Heart Research Australia is urging all Australians to come together and take action to safeguard both their heart and brain health.

This year, we are shedding light on the crucial link between cardiovascular health and cognitive function and sharing effective day-to-day strategies to support both. It's crucial to understand that what supports the heart also benefits the brain.

Heart disease remains the leading cause of death in Australia, and its effects reach far beyond our hearts. Conditions such as high blood pressure and high cholesterol can not only cause damage to the heart, but can also increase the risk of cognitive decline, and the development of dementia.

By 2054, the number of Australians living with dementia is expected to double. So, protecting our heart and brain health now is more vital than ever, not only for our own health and wellbeing, but to reduce the pressure on our health system as it braces for the impact of an ageing population.

In our communities, the impact of heart disease and dementia are deeply felt. We see it in our families, friends, and neighbours. The path forward begins with simple, actionable steps. Heart Research Australia's 4-M Approach—Meals, Movement, Measurement, and Mental Wellness guides us to take small, meaningful actions today, which can protect both our hearts and our minds.

At Heart Research Australia, we are committed to reducing the devastating impact heart disease has on families and the community.

This REDFEB, we are asking Australians to come together to wear red, raise awareness, and contribute to the vital research that will change lives.

By taking action today, we can reduce the devastating effects of heart disease tomorrow. Together, as one community, we can make a difference for our future.

To learn more about Heart Research Australia's 4-M approach and support Heart Research Australia's critical research, please visit www.heartresearch.com.au.

Sincerely,
Nicci Dent,
CEO, Heart Research Australia.

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

Plea for Caution

• Continued from page 1.

"Pause Stop"

Ms Slatter encouraged drivers to this weekend stop in at one of the TAC's 15 "Pause Stop" locations set up at Visitor Information Centres across the state, as part of a partnership with the Victorian Tourism Industry Council. Each Pause Stop location will provide visitors with a range of resources to plan a safe journey, including information on how to avoid drowsy driving and activities to keep the kids entertained.

"Drivers are encouraged to take a break from the road every two hours, swap drivers if they can, and just slow down and enjoy the drive. Getting to your destination later than planned is better than not arriving at all," she said.

"For people celebrating the long weekend with friends and family, make sure you have planned a safe way home that doesn't involve drinking and driving."

Recharge

People passing the Balmatium Rest Area along the Hume Highway on January 25 can stop at the TAC's Pause Stop location for a TAC activation that includes free barista coffee, games for the family, children's activities and a powernap space to recharge. The State Emergency Service will also have their Driver Reviver sites active across the state during the weekend. People can visit tac.vic.gov.au/road-safety/pausestop to find a Pause Stop location.

Climate Zealotry Takes Priority

• Continued from page 1.

and more than 400 families a week are entering hardship arrangements with their energy providers.

"Labor has failed Australians on inflation, energy prices, housing and security. Inflation averaged 2.2 per cent under the Coalition but has averaged 4.5 per cent under Federal Labor, with their policies making inflation worse. The International Monetary Fund projects that this year Australia will have the second highest inflation of any developed country, after the Slovak Republic.

Energy Plan

"An incoming Coalition Government will generate

fewer emissions by 2050 with our responsible energy plan, integrating nuclear energy at existing coal-fired power plant sites and using existing transmission networks.

"We will end Labor's anti-gas crusade and responsibly use gas to transition to a zero-emissions energy future when nuclear is ready to come onto the energy grid.

"Renewable energy will be a major part of Australia's energy mix, in locations that genuinely tick the social, economic and environmental criteria.

"The Coalition won't railroad regional Australia to stave off losing inner-city seats to the Greens and Teals.



• Dr Anne Webster

The Prime Minister needs to get his head out of the clouds and into the struggles of Australian families and small businesses who can't afford Labor's global ideological crusades."

Visions of Tomorrow

• Continued from page 1.

"Working collaboratively, we discover the shared feelings that connect us – resilience, hope, and the desire for understanding – helping us to better appreciate where each of us comes from," said Mayor Cr Alan Getley.

"When we take the time to reflect, it inspires us to contribute to a more compassionate future."

Free Workshop

The free two-day workshop, will encourage participants to explore their own community and family connections, drawing on enduring symbols of resilience and belonging. They will express their stories through art and gain foundational skills in exhibition curation, culminating in a private "friends and family" gathering on Sunday afternoon.

Workshops Details

Date: Saturday and Sunday, February 8 and 9, 2025 –

includes morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea on both days.

Time: 10:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. each day.

Location: Wycheproof Railway Station, Railway Place, Wycheproof.

Places are limited, to register, call 1300 520 520, or send an email to: buloke@buloke.vic.gov.au

The workshops will lead to a public "Visions of Tomorrow" exhibition hosted by the

Wycheproof Community Resource Centre on Thursday, February 13, 2025 from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.. Light refreshments will be available from 12:00 noon to 1:30 p.m..

The exhibition date also marks the anniversary of the National Apology to the Stolen Generations in 2008.

This initiative is funded through the Australian and Victorian Government's Community Recovery Hubs Program.

Next Week's "Times"

With the Australia Day long weekend approaching, please be advised that next week's editions of the "Times" will be on Wednesday, January 29 and Friday, January 31.

All advertising and other material for publication should be submitted as early as possible, to meet printing deadlines.



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• The decommissioned tram is the latest edition to Donald's railway precinct.

All Ideas Aboard: Donald's Transformation

Donald has a new attraction — an authentic decommissioned tram has arrived at the railway station, ready for its next journey.

Thanks to the efforts of Donald 2000, the tram has been transported, craned into place, and is now set for a creative makeover.

Although trams may not have a direct link to Donald, this unique addition ties the community to a piece of history, providing visitors and

locals with a rare chance to see this type of tram outside metropolitan and regional hubs like Bendigo and Ballarat.

Supper at the Tram

To kickstart the transformation, Donald 2000, is offering the community a picnic

style February evening supper at the tram, where you can hop aboard and take a look inside, share ideas, and discuss how to make the tram and surrounding area a hub for locals and tourists.

“It’s a chance to come together, rebuild connections, and brainstorm how small projects like this can inspire and unite the community,” said Kerry Duncan, project co-ordinator

“Don’t miss the opportunity to be part of this exciting chapter for Donald.”

A picnic style dinner is provided with support from Buloke Shire Council’s Community Recovery Hubs Program, funded by the Australian and State Governments.

“Our community knows what it needs, and this program, born from the October

2022 flood event, has been supporting community projects like this,” said Buloke Shire Council Mayor Cr Alan Getley.

“As the program nears its conclusion, we recognise its vital role in helping the community recover. A journey that takes time.”

Event details:

Date: February 21, 2025

Time: 6:00 p.m.

Location: Donald Railway Station.

The tram will eventually be transformed into a community space at the railway precinct, giving the community another destination to gather, celebrate, and connect.

For more information, and to book for catering purposes, phone Donald 2000 on mobile: 0428 547 170, or 0428 434 960.

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Deadlines:—

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

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

BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

Lorna Hurst

Congratulations Lorna, on reaching 102 years of age on the 5th of January, 2025.

We are very proud of you.

—With love from your children Davina and Dale, and their families.

DEATH

KELLY.— Paul James 2/7/1948 - 21/1/2025 of Donald.

Brother of Frank, Von, Joy (all dec.), Bill, Rick, Peter, Gloria and Debbie.

*Sweet is the sleep that ended the pain
We would not wake you to suffer again.*

A private cremation has been held

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DEATH

WOOD (Martin).—

Helen Margaret Passed away peacefully, surrounded by her loving family in St Arnaud on January 17, 2025. Aged 74 yrs.

Dearly loved wife of Bob and much loved Mum of Maxine. Loving and proud Nan of Alexis and Chloe.

*Loved beyond words
We will see you again.*

FUNERAL WOOD.—

A celebration for Helen Wood was held at the Uniting Church St Arnaud on January 23, 2025.

Tributes & recording at kellfunerals.com.au

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District farewell

Dennis and Jenny Baker

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Info contact Tony 0428 325 985

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Twilight Tennis IS BACK AGAIN FOR 2025!

Wednesday nights, beginning at 6 p.m.. Two sets (to 8 games) per person per night.

February 5th, 12th 19th and 26th

Venue: DONALD LAWN TENNIS COURTS

Preference for entry is as a team of 4 (with players' names and team name).

Individual entrants will be placed in a team.

Cost: \$40 per person in total. This includes tennis and BBQ tea (meat and salad) for all four weeks. Drinks are also available at bar prices.

Enter teams and names to:

Stuart.Potter@education.vic.gov.au or text 0439 971 362 or enter on Donald Lawn Tennis Club's Facebook page.

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Wimmera Mallee Environmental and Agricultural Protection Association

Come and hear from our Council representatives about the **Renewable Energy** projects that are planned for our community and what they mean for you.

Meeting

Tuesday, January 28, 7pm
At the Warracknabeal Community Centre, Anzac Park, Warracknabeal

For more information email:

admin@wmeap.com

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Concerns Over Children Travelling to School Alone

New research released today by national insurer AAMI revealed that more than half (56 per cent) of primary school children are now driven or accompanied to and from school by another adult, with only a third (37 per cent) of parents allowing their kids to travel to school unaccompanied or with other kids.

This is in stark contrast to previous generations when almost seven in ten Australians (69 per cent) used to walk, bike or scooter to and from primary school by themselves.

“The research findings indicate a generational shift in the way parents let their children commute to and from school, with the majority of Aussie kids now being driven or chaperoned by an adult,” AAMI Motor Claims Executive Manager Luisa Rose said. “With this shift in our approach to school travel we need to be aware children may not have road safety skills and awareness, increasing the risk of an accident occurring in a school zone.

“While understandably not everyone can walk, ride or scooter to school due to distance and time, one thing everyone can do is learn, and follow, is the road rules to ensure our children are safe when arriving at and leaving school.”

When digging deeper to identify why Australian parents no longer allow their

children to travel to and from school unaccompanied by an adult, more than three quarters (78 per cent) cite safety concerns – with the majority (61 per cent) worried about drivers not paying attention and 17 per cent blaming their children’s lack of road safety awareness and sense.

“Alarmingly, deaths among children aged 0 - 7 years increased by 54 per cent in 2024 compared to the previous year[1], and this is not a trajectory we want to see continue in 2025,” said Russell White, Chair and Founder of the Australian Road Safety Foundation.

“This year, we hope to see a decrease in road fatalities especially involving children, and we’re calling on the community to help.

“AAMI’s research findings revealed that Australians are driving recklessly in and around school zones and need to pay attention to speed limits and rules that have been put in place to keep children safe.

“Speed signs in school zones have been around for decades, so there is no excuse to be confused by them or to be caught speeding during those designated times.

“The keys to reducing the Australian road toll are in our hands, which is why we’re once again partnering with AAMI to encourage Australians to drive safely in and around schools.”

As the first full week of the 2025 school year gets underway, national insurer AAMI and the Australian Road Safety Foundation (ARSF) are warning Aussie drivers to pay attention to speed limits in school zones, slow down and keep a lookout for children crossing roads.

AAMI’s research revealed alarming insights on dangerous driving behaviours Aussies admit to in and around school zones including:

- A quarter (25 per cent) admit to speeding through school zones because they didn’t notice signs;
- More than one in ten (12 per cent) do not always follow school “Drop and Go” zone rules;
- 12 per cent admit to speeding through school zones when they don’t see any children around;
- 12 per cent admit to being distracted by their phone while driving or queuing in a school drop off zone;

- 11 per cent have double parked or stopped in the middle of the road in front of their children’s school.

Additionally, the research found that more than a quarter (28 per cent) of Australian drivers were confused about school zone speed limits and times, while 22 per cent of Aussie parents were confused about their children’s school “Drop and Go” zone rules.

Music to the Ears of Parents

After initially launching in 2021, Australian Road Safety Foundation and AAMI are once again rolling out their Slow Down Songs initiative across Spotify, to geo-target drivers nearing school zones. Songs start playing normally but dramatically slow down when drivers are within 5km of a school, which reminds them they are entering an area with lowered speed limits and need to slow down and take extra caution. This year’s campaign features music from acclaimed Australian artist Amy Shark, adding a powerful and emotive soundtrack to its message.

AAMI and the ARSF’s top tips for Back to School Road Safety:

- Expect the unexpected – children have limited road-safety awareness and experience and can behave unpredictably;
- Look out, look out! There are children about! Always look out for children disembarking from buses or cars;
- There are rules for a reason – if dropping off or picking up your children, know and follow your school’s safety directives;
- Park distractions and focus on the job at hand – avoid driving distracted and follow all road rules and signage;
- Take the time to teach your children about road safety where you can walk, scooter or bike with them to school so they learn these vital life skills.



Natural Capital projects officer

Wimmera CMA

Horsham, Victoria

(Parental leave position)

12 months Temporary, up to .5FTE

Salary: \$73,413 - 80,703 pa (pro-rata)

Are you looking for the next step in your career? Have you considered regional Natural Resource Management?

Wimmera CMA is seeking a suitably experienced candidate with an understanding of Wimmera communities and our agricultural landscape and an interest in working alongside local farmers.

The purpose of the role is to support Wimmera CMA to meet sustainable agriculture-related project delivery obligations to both the Victorian and Australian Governments and build a flexible and adaptive organisation that capitalises on emerging opportunities around natural capital and drought resilience.

The Wimmera CMA provides a workplace and work practices that embrace, reflect, respect and promote the diversity of our community and support inclusion and participation for all.

Visit www.wcma.vic.gov.au to download a position description and key selection criteria. Applications close **10.00am Monday February 10 2025.**

For further information please contact Joel Boyd on 0429 949 196.

Phone: 03 5382 1544
24 Darlot St Horsham

www.wcma.vic.gov.au



Landcare Facilitator

Wimmera CMA

Horsham, Victoria

(Parental leave position)

12 months Temporary, up to .5FTE

Salary: \$73,413 - 80,703 pa (pro-rata)

Are you looking for the next step in your career? Have you considered regional Natural Resource Management?

Wimmera CMA is seeking a Landcare Facilitator to service the Yarriambiack Shire area as part of the Victorian Government’s Victorian Landcare Facilitator Program.

The purpose of the role is to support local Landcare and environmental volunteering groups, and the Yarrilinks Landcare Network, to build capacity and resilience, and undertake works for the protection, enhancement and restoration of the land and natural environment in this important part of our region.

The Wimmera CMA provides a workplace and work practices that embrace, reflect, respect and promote the diversity of our community and support inclusion and participation for all.

Visit www.wcma.vic.gov.au to download a position description and key selection criteria. Applications close **10.00am Monday February 10 2025.**

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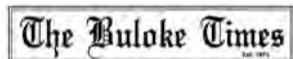
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Celebrate Australia Day in Northern Grampians

Northern Grampians Shire residents will celebrate some of the municipality's outstanding individuals and groups during a range of official and community-led Australia Day events on Sunday.

Mayor Karen Hyslop said the celebrations were an opportunity for unity and appreciation, with the announcement of community award winners to be a highlight of council-led celebrations in St Arnaud and Stawell.

"Our Australia Day ceremonies are an opportunity to give thanks to the people who make this shire such a special place to live, work and invest in," she said.

"Our councillors have been busy selecting the winners from a range of quality applicants and I congratulate everyone nominated on their contributions to our shire.

"I'm excited to celebrate the winners and encourage everyone to come along and recognise the amazing achievements of people in our community."

Cr Hyslop said she also looked forward to presiding over her first Australian citizenship ceremony as mayor.

"Becoming an Australian citizen is such a proud and special moment for all involved, particularly on our national day," she said. "I am so grateful to live in such a wonderful community, built on collaboration, compassion and resilience. The spirit of Northern Grampians Shire residents was particularly evident in the response to the Grampians fires over the Christmas-new year period, with an outpouring of support and generosity from people keen to help the affected residents and businesses."

Free Breakfast

Council's festivities will kick off with a free community breakfast in Market Square, St Arnaud at 8 a.m.

Official proceedings will start at 9 a.m., including the announcement of this year's award winners.

Award Categories

The categories for Kara Kara Ward are: Citizen of the Year, Senior Citizen of the Year, Young Citizen of the Year and Community Group or Event of the Year.

Afternoon

The spotlight moves to Central Park, Stawell in the afternoon, with a free community barbecue at 5 p.m..

The Australia Day ceremony will start at 6 p.m. and include the announcement of award winners from Central and Grampians wards, in the following categories: Citizen of the Year, Local Hero and Community Group or Event of the Year.

The award winners will also be announced on Northern Grampians Shire Council's Facebook page and website following the events.

Stawell Sports and Aquatic Centre will host an Australia Day pool party on Sunday, including water slides, inflatables, music, games and spot prizes, from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m..

Council Australia Day events:

St Arnaud

Location: Market Square, St Arnaud. 8 a.m.: Free community breakfast courtesy of Rotary and Lions clubs of St Arnaud. 9 a.m.: Official Australia Day Awards ceremony and flag raising ceremony. A special community address will be delivered by our local St Arnaud Australia Day Ambassador, Barry Batters. Following the ceremony, enjoy a Devonshire morning tea at St Arnaud Town Hall, courtesy of Friends of the Queen Mary Gardens.

Wet weather: If weather conditions require a change of venue, the event will move to St Arnaud Town Hall. Notification of this change will be provided via social media and signs at the venue.

Stawell

Location: Central Park, Stawell. 5 p.m.: Free community barbecue courtesy of Stawell Woolworths, Lions Club and Stawell CWA. 6 p.m.: Official Australia Day Awards ceremony, with a special community address delivered by Stawell Ambassador, Kathryn Clayton, Pinnacle CEO. This will be followed by an Australian citizenship ceremony. Wet weather option: If the weather turns unfavourable, the event will be relocated to Stawell Town Hall. Watch for notifications on social media and signs at the venue.

Community-led celebrations:

Navarre

Location: Community Park, High Street. 8 a.m. to 10

a.m.: Free community breakfast. 10am: Flag raising ceremony followed by official Australia Day ceremony, which will include a guest speaker. Further details: Leonie Bibby 0439 753 344.

Marnoo

Location: Marnoo Hall, 2 Newall Street. 12 noon: Community lunch provided by Marnoo CWA. Flag raising ceremony followed by official Australia Day ceremony, which will include guest speaker Jane Goninon, of Grampians Community Health. RSVP for catering purposes.

Further details: Marg Shaughnessy 0438 080 142, or Lois Johnson 0400 715 080.

Stuart Mill

Location: Stuart Mill Hall, Stuart Mill. 7 p.m.: Official proceedings with a guest speaker, followed by a light supper. All welcome to attend. Further details: Sheryn Lloyd 0409 428 572.



• Archie Tyler swaps his fishing rod for a pair of skis at Tchum lake

Tchum Membership is the Way to Go

The committee of Tchum Lake Aquatic Club Incorporated is encouraging community members who use Tchum Lake for exercise and water sports to contribute to the development and maintenance of the amenities by becoming a member.

Membership prices have remained at the same low price as they have been for many years, thus offering great value for all individuals, families and lake users, with singles \$40, seniors \$25, school children \$10 and families \$100.

Tchum Lake is an important asset in the local community as it contributes positively to the area's livability and the local economy, attracting tourists from all over Victoria who support the local traders throughout their stay.

Responsibility

The committee is solely responsible for the upkeep of the lake, which includes paying for water and maintaining the amenities and facilities, campground, playground, infrastructure and meeting the safety

and compliance requirements of operating a lake and campground.

The Buloke Shire Council, DEECA and other funding bodies help enormously with a variety of grants, but predominantly the committee uses the funds raised from camping fees and memberships to ensure the facilities at the lake are pristine and meeting safety standards so locals and tourists can enjoy the ambience, the amazing sunsets and a plethora of water sports from stand up paddleboarding and canoeing to water skiing, slalom skiing and wake boarding.

Tchum Lake continues to be popular for camping and fishing as it is a fantastic setting in which to relax, wind down after a busy day or to take some time out. Whilst it

is only 9 kilometers out of town, it can be far enough away to feel like you have been transported into a tranquil oasis where you can disappear into your own serenity and watch the sun set or the pelicans dive bombing for fish.

Active Recreation

The lake is a great place for active recreation, with walkers and runners enjoying the accessible three kilometre track accessible around the lake's perimeter. Many people may not realise but the walking track extends through the natural bushland on the east side of the lake near the inlet, and links the walking track at the lake to the bicycle track that is sealed all the way into Birchip.

Dog owners are reminded that if they are taking their

dogs around Tchum Lake, they need to keep them on a lead, and please pick up your dog's poo for the convenience of other lake users and the caretaker.

All lake users are urged to respect the lake and its facilities and to take advantage of the low membership and join Tchum Lake Aquatic Club. Membership fees can be transferred to the Tchum Lake aquatic club account, BSB 063 643 account 1006 0727 using name in the reference field or delivered to Birchip Neighbourhood House at the Old Shamrock Hotel in Cumming Avenue.

Anyone who has any enquiries regarding memberships can contact membership co-ordinator Simone Christie 0429 922735.

Thanks to Record Restocking... "Plenty of Fish"

"There are 10 million reasons Victorian families should get out and drop a line this year – with dozens of lakes and rivers stocked across the northern Vic region," said Member for Northern Victoria Jaclyn Symes, this week.

Victorian fishers are in for a bumper season, with more chances to hook line and sinker a Murray cod thanks to 10 years of record fish stocking by the State Government.

Since 2014, more than 66 million fish have been released across Victoria including golden perch, Australian bass, estuary perch, trout, salmon and dusky flathead – that is more stocking than all other Australian states and territories combined, with another 10 million fish to be stocked by mid-2025.

The fingerlings released recently were produced at the Arcadia Native Fish hatchery, near Shepparton, which is being upgraded to triple its size and will see it produce up to six million native fish each year, part of a \$15 million investment.

Since 2014, more than 22 million Murray cod have been stocked into Victorian waters at more than 60 locations across the state.

Several Victorian lakes are open year-round so fishers can wet a line and reel in a Murray cod including Lake Eppalock, Rocklands Reservoir and Lake Eildon. Since 2014, Lake Eppalock alone has scored 2.3



• Jaclyn Symes

million cod, with locals and visitors now catching increasing numbers of fish – which are likely upward of 3-4 years old.

Near the Grampians, Rocklands Reservoir has been stocked with millions of Murray cod since 2017, some of which are now being caught by freshwater anglers.

Several other waterways are flourishing thanks to record stocking and delivering benefits for nearby communities like Melton Reservoir, Cairn Curran, Taylors Lake near Horsham, Eildon and Lake Nillahcootie.

To find out more about some of the state's top fishing locations, head to vfa.vic.gov.au/fishingdestinations.

Keep Abreast with Local Happenings!

Don't forget Your Local Newspaper



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

Celebrating Australia Day with Acts of Kindness

“It was a plate of freshly baked scones with jam and cream that really hooked me”, said Leigh, who was a volunteer firefighter with the Country Fire Authority.

Bushfires cause so much loss and grief but thankfully in their midst there are sometimes wonderful “acts of kindness” performed like the day when two children came running up to a firetruck and delivered a plate of “scones, jam and cream”.

Leigh was one of the recipients and he said in response, “Forty-five years of service in the CFA paid for by one plate of kindness. I’d call that a fair swap.” A wonderful act of kindness which gave so much encouragement to these fire fighting volunteers who themselves are serving others with “acts of kindness”.

Caroline Chisholm

As we consider “Australia Day” let’s be reminded of more acts of kindness which have contributed so richly to the development of this nation. If you have an old \$5 note – pre-1992 – you will find Caroline Chisholm (1808 – 1877) featured on it. The Chisholm family arrived in NSW in 1838 and Caroline, motivated by a compassionate heart, was quick to help those in need. She would meet the sailing ships that came into port and make contact especially with young destitute girls and then offer shelter in her own home and helped them find jobs. Fighting off rats in 1840’s Sydney, Caroline promised God she would “surrender all comfort” to serve impoverished immigrant girls. Hundreds of girls benefited from her sacrificial acts of kindness.

David Unaipon

David Unaipon (1872 – 1967), an aboriginal, is illus-

trated on the current Australian \$50 note. He began school at the Point McLeay Christian mission at the age of 7. He became a writer, inventor and Pastor of churches. He invented a new sheep shearing device which became the basis of the modern shearing handpiece.

Remember that for many decades it was said, “Australia rode on the back of sheep” so Unaipon made a significant contribution to the economic development of Australia with his highly efficient sheep shearing handpiece and he contributed richly, spiritually, by teaching the truths of God’s Word from the pulpits of local churches to all who attended. Australia has been blessed richly by David Unaipon’s inventive skills and numerous acts of kindness.

John Flynn

Pull an Australian \$20 note out of your wallet and you will observe a picture of John Flynn. John “the dreamer” was motivated to provide a “mantle of safety” over the great Australian inland when he heard some tragic stories.

For example, a young mother near Meekatharra in Western Australia back in the early 1900s was hanging washing out on the clothes line. Her three children suddenly saw her collapse and lapse into unconsciousness. The 12-year-old eldest son took control, put his two younger siblings into his billy cart and started on a journey walking many miles to find his dad, who was working in



• Bruce Stewart

a local mine. When he found his dad after an exhausting journey he finally was able to gasp, “Daddy, Daddy! Mum has fallen and is asleep in the hot sun under the clothes line!” Hundreds of people in the remote inland died an early death because they couldn’t access medical help quickly enough.

John Flynn, motivated by a strong faith in Christ, spent the rest of his life ministering amongst the people of the outback with amazing acts of kindness. He was a visionary and worked hard building a team which eventually initiated the Royal Flying Doctor Service, which put its first plane into the air in 1928. Now there are 81 RFDS planes providing a “mantle of safety” over our nation. John’s goal was to serve “Christ and Continent” for the whole of his life.

Yes, I know that the celebration of Australia Day is controversial for some and our past is not perfect, but perhaps a goal for each of us for this Australia day and beyond could be to offer an act



• David Unaipon (1872 – 1967), an aboriginal, is illustrated on the current Australian \$50 note. He began school at the Point McLeay Christian mission at the age of 7. He became a writer, inventor and Pastor of churches. He invented a new sheep shearing device which became the basis of the modern shearing handpiece used by highly skilled shearers like Col Barnes of Barham.



of kindness to someone else, like a plate of freshly prepared “scones, jam and cream”, or send a text or note of encour-

agement. The Bible says, “Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD”. (Psalm 33:12). We are a blessed na-

tion indeed! We have much to be grateful for. Happy Australia Day everyone!
Bruce Stewart.

VNI West Field Survey Activities Recommencing

Survey crews will recommence ecology and traffic and transport studies on public and private land in the VNI West project area from next week.

Data gathered across the project area supports work under way to find the best location for VNI West infrastructure with the least impact on farms, the environment and local communities.

Surveys beginning next week across Gannawarra and Buloke local government areas, focus on ecology work.

Ecology surveys are used to identify important environmental values such as wildlife habitats and vegetation.

Survey locations are intended to inform TCV’s understanding of the likelihood of a species occurrence in specific areas.

Surveys may include non-invasive ground investigations such as site walkovers, photography, nocturnal fauna spotting, noise monitoring, “call playback,” camera trap surveys and tile array surveys.

A broader program of traffic and transport field surveys is also beginning next week, across Gannawarra, Buloke, Loddon and Northern Grampians Shires.

Traffic and transport surveys involve observation of vehicle speeds, assessing road conditions, identifying safety

hazards and evaluating access points and connectivity to nearby transport networks.

Surveys and field work on public land have been planned in consultation with relevant local authorities where required.

Field work taking place on private property is done so with the consent of the landholder as defined in their Land Access Agreement. Strict biosecurity protection measures will be in place, reflecting each landholder’s advice to TCV and Agriculture Victoria’s biosecurity recommendations.

Surveys initially commenced in October 2023, with over 90 surveys taking place on private land in 2024 in consultation with landholders. So far, the surveys conducted include:

- Land use and planning.
- Landscape and visual amenity.
- Historical heritage.
- Noise monitoring.
- Ecology surveys.
- Geotechnical surveys.
- Aerial surveys (light detection and ranging (LiDAR)).

The outcomes of these surveys played a key role in

refining the ~2km wide draft corridor to a ~70m wide preferred easement. On the ground studies are critical to ensuring TCV has a robust understanding of the area and can design the project to minimise impacts to local communities wherever possible.

Ongoing investigations will also continue to play a key role in developing the Environment Effects Statement (EES). The EES is Victoria’s most rigorous assessment of potential environmental impacts.

The draft scoping requirements for the EES were open for consultation last year and are currently being finalised by the Department of Planning and Transport (DTP). The final requirements are expected in early 2025.

To keep up to date on planned survey activities, please visit our dedicated webpage: <https://www.transmissionvictoria.com.au/planned-field-survey-activities>

For more information about VNI West and the EES, please visit our website: www.transmissionvictoria.com.au

One Hundred Years Ago

From the “Birchip Advertiser”, January 9, 1925.

Water Wasted: Over two nights this week taps at the park have been turned on and many thousands of gallons of water wasted. Parents of children who frequent the park, are asked to warn them not to interfere with the taps. The park caretaker noticed one child turn on the water.

**

Wheat Harvest: Wheat is being delivered very freely at stations throughout the Shire. A pioneer wheat farmer declares that the harvest is the best for about nine years. Many crops are averaging from 10 to 12 bags and a few

below 6 bags. With the price above 6s. per bushel, growers in this district should receive about £300,000 for this year’s harvest.

**

O’Donnell’s & Coy Watchem Business: Messrs F. M. O’Donnell and Co., Stock and Station Agents, Birchip, have opened a branch of their business at Watchem, under the management of Mr. Jack Bourke, who is well and favourably known in the district. Regular sales will be held at Watchem, and clearing sales conducted as required. Clients can rely upon every attention being given to their requirements by Mr. Bourke.

**

Grass Fire

A grass fire occurred on Mr. J. B. Thompson’s property 8 miles south of Birchip yesterday afternoon and several cars of fire fighters hurried to the scene. The fire spread to a prolific wheat crop of Mr. W. McRosties, but owing to the successful efforts of the 30 fire fighters a good save was effected, and only two acres of crop were destroyed. Almost 130 acres were also destroyed.

**

The Buloke Times

Coloured Photographs

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

Photos not published may also be available.

Call in to our offices,
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“Times” Crossword

QUICK PUZZLE NO. 8161 - SOLUTIONS

Across - 7, Considerable. 8, Tussle. 9, Finger. 10, Hashish. 12, Ranch. 15, Heart. 16, Portent. 18, Branch. 20, Combat. 22, Stupefaction.
Down - 1, Populate. 2, Isis. 3, Adverse. 4, Draft. 5, Abundant. 6, Fete. 11, Harangue. 13, Cinnamon. 14, Conceal. 17, Threw. 19, Rust. 21, Mote.

Taylor Made

Community members from surrounding districts enjoyed quality live music on January 11 at the Watchem Church.



• Taylor Sheridan at the Watchem Church show on January 11.

Despite the heat, musicians Taylor Sheridan and Brooke Taylor wowed the crowd with tunes cooler than the weather and provided a fantastic evening of entertainment.

With limited live music options in regional locations, many thanks go to organisers of this event and to those attended for their support. Following this show's success, no doubt future musical events at Watchem Church will be greatly anticipated.



• Brooke Taylor and her band The Spitting Gin Queens

Remembrance Grants Available

Returned and Services League (RSL) sub-branches across the region are being asked to apply for the latest round of funding made available to assist with restoring community war memorials, avenues of honour and capital works to upgrade RSL facilities.

The Nationals' Member for Mildura, Jade Benham, said grants of up to \$30,000 are available to restore war memorials and avenues of honour, while there is up to

\$50,000 on offer for capital works to build or improve spaces that deliver services to veterans and their families.

"We will be forever grateful for those who have served

for their country and our memorials honour those brave men and women who paid the ultimate sacrifice for their country," Ms Benham said.

"I take great pride in researching and learning the stories of our soldiers (both historical and contemporary), so that future generations not exposed to war on home soil, can thank these brave souls for their service.

"Our RSLs do an amazing job supporting families and veterans through a range of

different support services and initiatives. I highly encourage our local sub-branches to consider applying for this funding opportunity."

The Veterans Capital Works and Restoring Community War Memorials and Avenues of Honour grant programs close on February 3, 2025.

More information on the application process, eligibility and assessment criteria can be found at: www.vic.gov.au/veterans-capital-works-grant-program

The Link Between Heart Health and Ageing Well: Healthy Heart, Sharp Mind

This February is REDFEB, Heart Research Australia's heart awareness month, dedicated to raising awareness about heart disease and encouraging Australians to wear red and donate to fund vital research.

Millions of Australians are at risk of heart disease, but fewer realise that keeping their heart healthy can also help protect their brain, memory, and cognitive function, reducing the risk of conditions like dementia as they age. With cardiovascular disease affecting more than 4 million Australians and remaining the leading cause of death, it's not just your heart at stake — your brain health depends on it too.

The Heart-Brain Connection

"Heart health and brain health are intimately connected," says Clinical Neuropsychologist Dr Miranda Say. "The brain relies on a steady supply of blood from the heart. Conditions like high blood pressure, high cholesterol can disrupt blood flow, increasing the risk of stroke and cognitive decline, including dementia."

Dementia

In Australia, more than 421,000 people are living with dementia in 2024 — a number projected to double by 2054. Vascular dementia, which is linked to cardiovascular health, is a growing concern. This REDFEB, Heart

Research Australia urges all Australians to prioritise their heart health by adopting simple lifestyle changes that can have a profound impact on their future wellbeing.

Nicci Dent, CEO of Heart Research Australia, stresses the importance of taking proactive steps now. "Prioritising heart health isn't just about preventing heart attacks—it's also about safeguarding your brain health and reducing your future risk of cognitive decline, including dementia. The message is simple, what's good for your heart health is also good for your brain health" she said.

Steps You Can Take: The 4-M Approach

As part of REDFEB, Heart Research Australia's heart awareness month, their 4-M Approach encourages Australians to take small, simple steps that can benefit both their heart and brain health:

Meals: High cholesterol levels can not only block the arteries of the heart, increasing the risk of heart disease, but also those leading to the brain impairing blood flow, which is crucial for cognitive health. Recent Australian research demonstrated that high cholesterol plays a key role in Alzheimer's disease and other types of dementia. Heart Research Australia nutritionist Chloe Steele says, "it's important to know what you are eating and understand how to read the backs of packets. Avoiding processed foods and keeping your diet simple and fresh can help support your heart and brain health." This

February, Heart Research Australia invites all Australians to wear red and donate to support research into life-saving heart disease prevention and care.

Movement: As we age, incorporating functional strength training — focusing on balance and strength — into our weekly routines, along with aerobic exercise like walking, becomes essential. This combination of aerobic and resistance training can help lower blood pressure, increase good cholesterol, reduce bad cholesterol, and even promote neuroplasticity, the brain's ability to form new connections.

Measurement: Regular health check-ups to monitor blood pressure, cholesterol and blood sugar are crucial. "Knowing your numbers" is key to preventing cardiovascular disease and helping protect cognitive functions. During REDFEB, Heart Research Australia encourages Australians to take control of their health by regularly scheduling these vital check-ups, ensuring they stay heart and brain healthy.

Mental Wellness: High blood pressure and high cholesterol often go unnoticed in daily life, but they can significantly harm both your heart and brain, impacting cognition and memory. Beyond knowing your numbers and managing these risk factors, incorporate regular mindfulness moments into your day. These short breaks allow you to reset your thinking and can greatly support cognitive and cardiovascular health. This REDFEB, build

positive habits that will make a lasting difference for your future well-being.

For REDFEB, Heart Research Australia has launched an on demand webinar "Healthy Heart, Sharp Mind: 4 Simple Steps to Improving Heart and Brain Health" available here.

This February, Honour Loved Ones and Support Heart Research

This REDFEB, Heart Research Australia encourages all Australians to wear red to honour loved ones affected by heart disease, and to raise funds for life-saving research. "Taking care of your heart today can have lasting benefits for both your heart and brain," says Nicci Dent. "By supporting REDFEB, you're not only helping to fund vital research, but also empowering yourself and your loved ones to live healthier, longer more active lives."

For more information on REDFEB and to donate, visit www.heartresearch.com.au.

A Call for Cancellation

Campaign Director, Laurie Levy this week called on Victorian Premier Jacinta Allan to act responsibly and cancel the 2025 recreational duck shooting season, citing the severe risk of spreading the deadly H5N1 avian influenza virus.

"Australia remains the only continent to have avoided the H5N1 strain of avian influenza to date. However, the virus is reportedly devastating penguins and other species in Antarctica. With migratory birds continuing to arrive from both the northern hemisphere and Antarctica, the risk to Australian wildlife and agricultural industries is unprecedented.

"Duck shooters and rescuers handling dead and possibly contaminated birds on

Victoria's wetlands would only further spread the virus," Levy explained. "It will also be difficult for rescuers to distinguish between birds wounded by gunfire and those suffering from bird flu, as the symptoms can be similar."

Disturbances caused by shooting and rescue activities on wetlands would exacerbate the spread of the virus, potentially wiping out entire species. The October 2024 Eastern Australia Waterbird Aerial Survey by the University of NSW reveals that five of the eight species classified as "game" ducks already show significant long-term population declines.

"While human infections have so far been rare, overseas reports indicate that the virus could mutate, posing a threat to humans," Levy warned.

"Despite the risks, the Coalition rescuers will continue to help wounded shot waterbirds on the wetlands if the season proceeds, and all dead birds would be displayed outside the Premier's office.

"A duck shooting season is simply not worth the risk," Levy concluded.

A Gift to Last a Year!

A subscription to . . . **The Buloke Times**

is an ideal gift for your son or daughter who is about to leave the family home.

It can also enable family members and friends living elsewhere to keep in touch with news and developments occurring throughout the region.

Call in the "The Times" Offices, Donald or Birchip

or phone 5497 1222 for details.

E-Mailers!

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



Police Beat



Swan Hill

Fire: At about 6.30 p.m. on Friday the 17th of January, a semi-trailer carrying brush fencing has caught fire whilst travelling on the Donald-Swan Hill Road, Meatian. The quick-thinking driver unhooked the prime mover and moved it to safety. The fire moved from the trailer and crossed the road. It is believed the fire was caused by a mechanical fault.

Thefts: Between January 11 and 19, there have been several thefts from properties in Swan Hill. Offenders have stolen a Yamaha 9.9, 4-stroke boat motor from an address in Murlong Street, Swan Hill; a Makita drill and air conditioner were stolen from a property on Chaplin Street Swan Hill; and various items including an unregistered trailer, fridge and washing machine appear to have been stolen from a property in McDonald Court. There is no evidence to suggest these thefts

are related.

Theft from motor vehicle: Last week there were several thefts from motor vehicles in Swan Hill, a wallet was stolen from a vehicle parked in Mundara Street, Swan Hill, and personal cards were used to make purchases prior to the victim realising that his wallet had been stolen; a handbag was stolen from a vehicle parked in Beveridge Street, Swan Hill, and personal cards were used to make purchases prior to the victim realising the theft had occurred; and a coin purse was stolen from a vehicle parked in Stradbroke Avenue. There is no evidence to suggest these thefts are related.

Burglary: Between January 4 and 11, offenders have gained entry to a property in Lehan Court, Swan Hill. Fence panels were stolen and there was forced entry to a shed. A lawn mower, blower and various other items appear to have been stolen. The

reporting person attended a couple of days later to discover there had been forced entry to the house and the house was ransacked. A TV and DVD player were among the items stolen.

Arrest: On Monday the 13th of January, a 42-year-old female was arrested after a member of the public observed her trying car door handles and taking a bicycle from an address in Stradbroke Avenue, Swan Hill. The offender was interviewed, charged and bailed to attend court at a later date.

Bicycle theft: In the evening of Monday the 13th of January, a red and black mountain bike was stolen from the rear of a business in Campbell Street, Swan Hill.

Gannawarra

Damage: Between Thursday and Friday last week, damage was caused to the public toilets off RSL Drive in Kerang. A tap and toilet roll holder were broken. It appears other public toilets in Kerang were also targeted, with minimal damage caused.

Vehicle theft: In the evening of Thursday the 16th of January, a Mitsubishi Triton ute was stolen from Burke Street, Kerang. It was located in the early hours of the following day in Swan Hill.

Buloke Shire Australia Day Events



→ 26 JANUARY 2025

- BERRIWILLOCK** 8.00AM Tynan Park | Food and Drinks | Guest Speaker
- BIRCHIP** 8:00AM Birchip Memorial Park | Breakfast | Guest Speaker
- CHARLTON** 8:00AM Charlton Shire Hall | BBQ Breakfast | Awards
- CULGOA** 8:30AM Culgoa Soldiers Memorial | Breakfast | BYO Chair
- DONALD** 10:00AM Memorial Park | Backyard Cricket | Ceremony from 11:00am | BBQ Lunch
- NANDALY** 8.30AM Community Hall | Breakfast | Guest Speaker
- NULLAWIL** 8.30AM O'Brien Park | Breakfast | Guest Speaker
- SEA LAKE** 8.00AM Apex Park | BBQ Breakfast | Awards
- WATCHEM** 6.00PM Watchem Lake | BBQ | BYO Drinks & Salad or Sweet Dish
- WYCHEPROOF** 8.00AM Centenary Park | BBQ Breakfast | Guest Speaker | Awards from 9:00am

These events are supported by Buloke Shire Council and the Australian and Victorian Government's Community Recovery Hubs Program



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2025

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The Late Robert (Bob) James Giles

From Glenn Giles

Bob Giles was born in Donald, the first child of Charles (Charlie) and Linda (nee Impey) Giles. The family completed in 1936 with the birth of Judith.

Bob's first home was in Donald, moving in 1934 to nearby Corack East, where the family of Bob's mother, the Boorns, had a quite successful, apparently, "Wine Shanty", for a time the home of Bob's family. Their previous Corack residence having its under-floor area become occupied by brown snakes!

In 1940 the family moved back to Donald. Bob attended school at Corack East and Donald, completing the equivalent of Year 10. He commenced a plumbing apprenticeship in Donald. These were the tough Great Depression, Second World War and immediate post-War years. Bob had four uncles, (all of his father's brothers), who served in WW2, one of them, Frances William, killed in Papua New Guinea, another a "Rat of Tobruk" and prisoner of war, John Thomas (Jack). However, Bob remembered that period as a happy time with his extended family.

In 1951 Bob's family moved to Helmsdale (later

Glenelg East), to the home of one of the Boorn boys, Charlie. Who was by then a horse trainer, he had been a champion jockey; there's a memorial to Charlie at Donald Racetrack's finishing post. Bob's mother liked the move as she loved horses, Charlie's place was near the Morphettville Race Track and associated horse yards, stables, training. It was a happy move for Bob, Glenelg being a holiday location and popular beach in Adelaide, at the end of the tram line, a mode of transport loved by Bob.

Marriage

Bob much enjoyed the Big Band swing music and dances of the time, meeting his wife, Merion, at the Bay (Glenelg) Town Hall Dance in 1954, marrying on May 17, 1957, in Adelaide. Bob and Merion had four children from 1960 to 1968: Glenn, Andrew, Lesley, and Brenton, moving into the long-time family home at Para Hills, a northern suburb of Adelaide, in June 1962.

Bob completed his plumbing apprenticeship, and National Service, in 1954. An early job was on the construction of Woomera, where other plumbers persuaded Bob to join the Plumbers' Union in 1955. Early on, Bob developed a passion for reading, and for social affairs. He became active in his union, becoming an organiser in 1962 and secretary in 1969 (with the untimely death of a mentor of Bob's and then secretary, Murray Shuppan). Bob also was very active in the local community, Para Hills, very soon after moving there, including as secretary of the Para Hills Progress Association.

Also through the 1960s, Bob's passion for the environment grew. He was involved in the developing environment movement, including the Campaign Against Nuclear Energy and Conservation and town planning organisations. As Plumber's Union secretary, Bob was much involved in the "Green Bans" movement, promoting a socially active union-

ism that linked unions with community people to protect valued buildings and public greenspace.

Legacy

One legacy of Bob's work, in his local community, as Plumbers' union secretary and environmental advocate, is "The Paddocks", established in the mid 1970s, with its expanse of sporting fields, parkland, watercourses, wetlands, community club and medium density housing.

The R.J. Giles Reserve, recognising Bob's key role, is adjacent to the first lake on the paddocks.

Another major part of this story is the "revolution" in urban stormwater management as the site was key in developing the City of Salisbury's method of treating urban run-off stormwater through wetlands and, later on, storing it in the aquifer, available for subsequent use.

Bob retired as Plumbers' Union secretary in 1975, returning to "the tools" as a plumber. He had become frustrated in his efforts to get his union to adopt his vision for a more socially active union, working with the community to promote social justice and an environmentally sustainable society and economy. This stint as a plumber was relatively short; Bob became an Industrial Officer for the Public Service Association of SA in 1977, until his retirement, from paid work, in 1994.

In the late 1970s and into the 1980s Bob was SA Convener of Environmentalists For Full Employment, with a friend with similar values and vision, Jack Munday (known nation wide for his role in the pioneering "Green Bans" movement of the late 1960s and 1970s in Sydney). EFFE advocated economic, energy and town planning policies that were environmentally sensitive, socially just and included work that was safe for workers.

Through his more office bound working life, and after, Bob continued his passion for working with his hands, producing various creations for his children and their children from his shed: including extending the home to accommodate the four children, cubby houses, swings, adding



• The late Robert J. Giles

a snooker hall onto his shed, replacing gutters on children's homes.

In retirement Bob continued his environmental passion, volunteering at Greenfields Wetlands (Mawson Lakes, west of Para Hills) and as a Trees For Life, Bush for Life bushcarer (his site being at the evocatively named Taworri, a Kurna word meaning "evening breeze", Reserve, Fairview Park, north-east Adelaide suburb). Bob was a "Community Fellow" for Land and Water

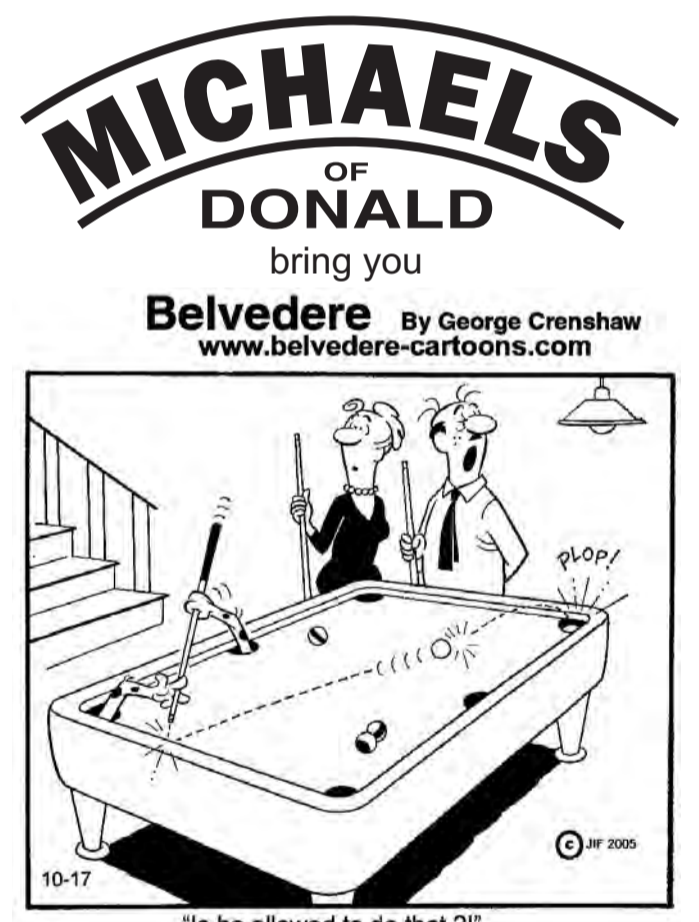
Australia in the early to mid 2000s.

In 2014 he was the City of Salisbury's Citizen of the Year.

Bob maintained contact with Donald, throughout his long life, with frequent visits to relatives, and also to other towns across western Victoria where relatives were resident. In 2002 Bob spread some of his beloved sister's ashes on Scilleys Island, Donald. A favourite holiday place was the nearby Gariwerd / The Grampians.



• "The Paddocks" sign.



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Tyrrell Tight at the Top

Ladder positions have tightened in Tyrrell Pennant bowls with five teams striving to fill one of the four available finals spots in Division One.

The two Birchip teams have come back to the pack since play resumed after the harvest break, but hopefully they can get everyone back playing in coming weeks as finals approach.

Birchip Grey

Birchip Grey took on Quambatook at home with the visitors needing a win to stay in finals contention. As it turned out they got what they came for. They were too consistent and took all the available match points. They also had a good win in division two.

Division One

Rink One: Tony Doran, Peter Gould, Roger Bragg and Peg Hogan took on Wayne Cook and his crew. The visitors had their noses in front early on and were seven shots up at the halfway mark. They stretched the margin out to nine shots at the end of the day. Quamby won 27-19

Rink Two: Mark Bowen, Grant Cartwright, Moya Connelly and Jennifer Blainey took on Chyna Williams team. This was the best game of the day. The locals had a small lead at lunch but it was Quamby who found some form and managed to be two shots up after twenty five ends They won 21-19

Rink Three: Richard Haddrick, Bryan Hogan, Alfie Donnellon and Liam took on Mick Coleman's team. It was a game of two halves. Quamby were very strong before lunch. They took a handy fourteen shot lead into lunch but Birchip turned things around when play resumed and scores were level with one end to play. Quamby won that end and took the match 31-29

Overall Quambatook won 79-66 but still remain just outside the final four.

Birchip Pennant Teams

Birchip Grey to play Maroon, at Birchip 1 p.m., January 25, 2025.

Division One

K. Donnellon, B. Hogan, M. Spicer, R. Haddrick (s)
L. Scott, N. Noonan, O. Reid, D. Ryan (s)
J. Blainey, R. Bragg, G. Cartwright, M. Bowen (s)

Division Two

L. Blair, S. Fraser, M. Conolly, P. Hogan (s)
P. Bragg, R. Ince, C. Reid, P. Gould (s)
Meet at 12.30 p.m..

Birchip Maroon to play Grey, at Birchip 1 p.m., January 25, 2025.

Division One

R. Cooper, M. Hogan, G. Martin, W. Clarke (s)
J. Tierney, D. Barker, T. Doran, A. Lee (s)
G. Trollope, T. Grogan, J. Reid, K. Reid (s)

Division Two

L. Whitling, M. Hogan, M. Barr, G. Smith (s)
E Biender, J. Petrie, K. Hagley, R. Barr (s)
Meet at 12.30 p.m.. Afternoon tea please.

Division Two

Rink Four: Geoff Smith, Stan Fraser and Les Blair played one player short but still had the form to beat the Quamby team which was led by Deb Geary. The Birchip veterans were a shot down at the break but found themselves a couple of shots up at the end of the day. 23-21

Rink Five: Rob, Matt Barr and Pauline Bragg had a tough day against Les Gibson and his team. The Birchip team trailed all day but managed to sting some consecutive winning ends together late. It was all in vain with Quambatook winning 30-19 meaning they won overall 51-41

Birchip Maroon

Berriwillock totally out-classed the Maroons on Saturday clean sweeping all rinks on the day.

Division One: "Blue" Wight and his team played extremely well all day against Kevin Reid's side to win comfortably by 14 shots. Clarky's rink had the closest margin for the day only going down by 3 shots to Trev Emmerson's side.

"Eddie's" side was on the back foot all day against Peter

Brook's side, but did enjoy a late rally to get back square with two ends to go but were eventually beaten by a better side on the day by 5 shots.

Division Two: Maroon were beaten comfortably with the overall margin being 54 shots to 28 overall.

Sidenotes

• It was great to see some new faces and a very convincing effort by Brad Ryan in Division 2 which will hold him in good stead if he decides

to continue playing, a definite Division 1 player in the future.

• The debrief in the club-rooms after bowls was a very long session and I think the issues of the world were solved!

• With this week being the grudge match with the battle of the two Birchip sides, hopefully there will be a full list to choose from with no gender reveal parties planned for Saturday.

Wimmera Mallee Cricket Draw



"A" Grade

Round 9, Saturday, January 25:
Southern Mallee Giants v St Marys
Birchip Swans v Donald Jeffcott
St Arnaud v Marnoo

Round 10, Saturday, February 1:

St Marys v St Arnaud
Southern Mallee Giants v Birchip Swans
Donald Jeffcott v Marnoo

Round 11, Saturday, February 8:
St Arnaud v Donald Jeffcott

Birchip Swans v St Marys
Marnoo v Southern Mallee Giants

Round 12, Saturday, February 15:

Birchip Swans v St Arnaud
Southern Mallee Giants v Donald Jeffcott

St Marys v Marnoo
Round 13, Saturday, February 22:

Donald Jeffcott v St Marys
St Arnaud v Southern Mallee Giants
Marnoo v Birchip Swans.

"B" Grade

Round 9, Saturday, January 25:
St Marys v Southern Mallee Giants

Donald Jeffcott v Birchip Swans
Charlton v Watchem Panthers

Round 10, Saturday, February 1:

Charlton v St Marys
Birchip Swans v Southern Mallee Giants

Watchem Panthers v Donald Jeffcott

Round 11, Saturday, February 8:

Donald Jeffcott v Charlton
St Marys v Birchip Swans
Southern Mallee Giants v Watchem Panthers

Round 12, Saturday, February 15:

Charlton v Birchip Swans
Donald Jeffcott v Southern Mallee Giant

Watchem Panthers v St Marys

Round 13, Saturday, February 22:

St Marys v Donald Jeffcott
Southern Mallee Giants v Charlton
Birchip Swans v Watchem Panthers.

Wimmera Mallee Cricket Ladders

"A" Grade

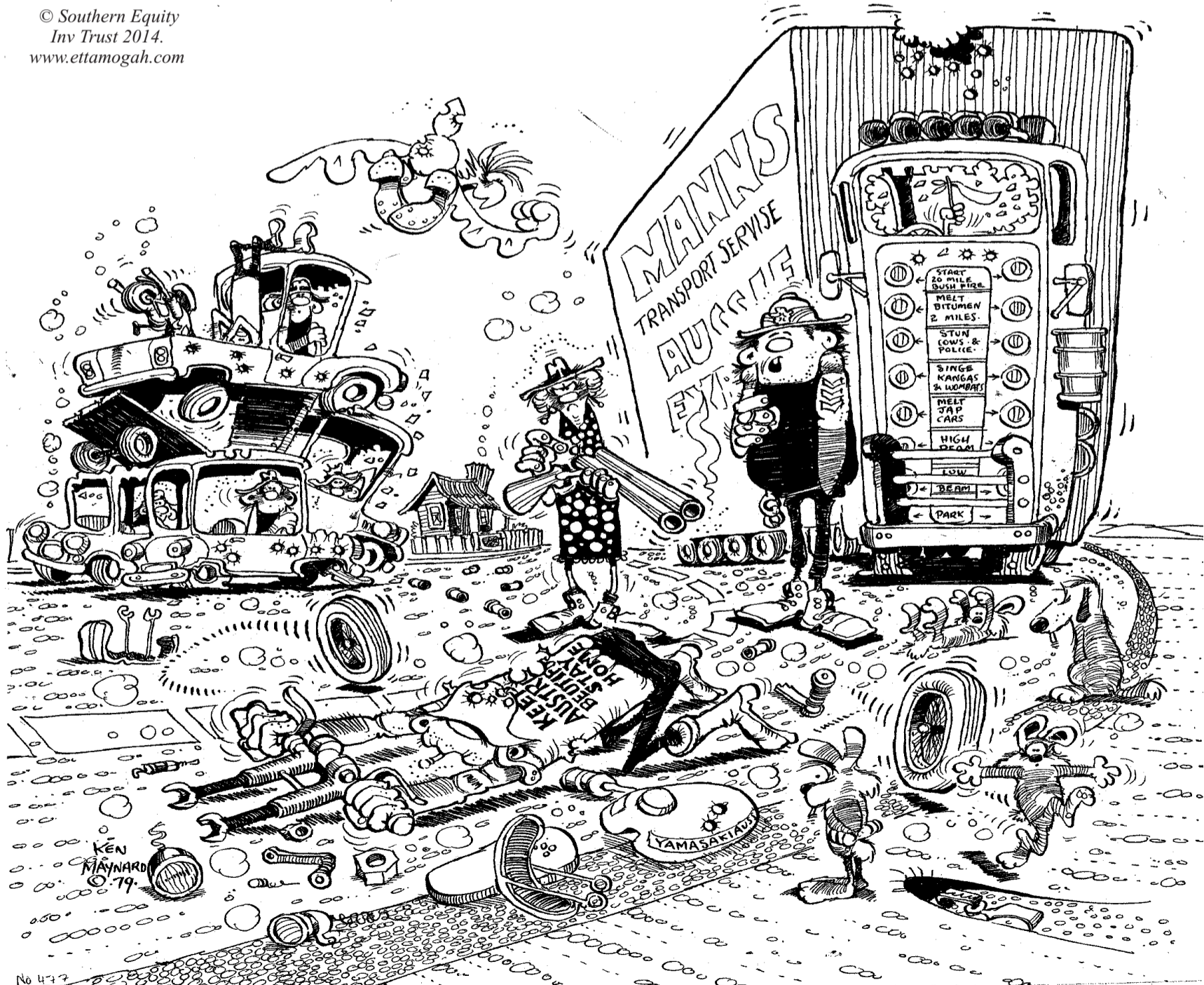
	P	W	L	D	Bye	Pts
Donald Jeffcott	10	8	0	0	0	29
Marnoo	9	8	2	0	0	19
Birchip	9	4	4	0	0	15
St Mary's	10	4	6	0	0	11
St. Arnaud	10	3	6	0	0	11
Southern Mallee.....	10	0	8	0	0	1

"B" Grade

	P	W	L	D	Bye	Pts
Charlton	10	8	1	0	0	27
Watchem	10	6	3	0	0	21
Donald Jeffcott	10	7	2	0	0	21
Southern Mallee	10	2	4	0	0	11
St. Mary's	10	1	6	0	0	7
Birchip	10	0	6	0	0	3

The Ettamogah Pub Mob

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"I know its difficult to cross the highway, madam ... but i'm sure there's an easier way!"

Hot Weather has an Early Impact

Last Tuesday's hot weather conditions, with the mercury pushing 38 degrees (over 100 degrees Fahrenheit) by mid-afternoon, had an impact on the day's midweek pennant games, with at least results being called early to protect player safety.

As Boort slipped out of the top four, it was agreed to call a halt to competition with Donald Golf, which led 55 shots to 36 at the luncheon break, 46 ends having been completed, winning the day.

Golf was in front on two rinks, Geoff Rigby holding a 12-shot advantage over John Gibson, while Shane O'Shea's rink was 8 shots to the better of Laurie Maxted's crew. Only ageless competitor Thelma Moresi was able to secure 2 points for the visiting Boort, shading Peter Hibberd by 1 shot.

St. Arnaud moved into the top four with a comfortable win at Donald's expense, winning across all three rinks by 34 shots, Allan Welsh downing Beryl Milne by 3 shots, Phil McRae eclipsing Trevor Farrer by 18, and Lloyd Goddard besting Hunter Wingfield by 13.

St. Arnaud Country Club went down heavily to the visiting Wedderburn, losing by 41 shots across the three rinks. Rhonda Pole's team

had no answer to Alan Jackson's combo, which prevailed by 24 shots, Patricia Goode fell 2 shots short of Laurie Witham's total, while Des Moulday's day didn't reach its full potential, trailing Andrew Caserta by 15 shots.

Ladder leader Wycheproof had to work hard for its points against fellow Calder Highway combination, Charlton, prevailing by 21 shots after Dale Groves accounted for Kevin Willey by 16 shots and Matt Nicholls finished 6 shots to the better of Lynne Southwell.

Ken North gave host Charlton something to savour when his team edged out George Coatsworth's quartet by 1 shot.

Details:

Donald Golf 55-10 d. Boort 36-2.

Corozon Stopps, Robert Reseigh, Brenda Dixon, Shane O'Shea (s) 20 d. Gillian Tweddle, Phyl Baker, Craig Newsome, Laurie Maxted (s) 12.

Sue Donnellon, Marilyn Frank, Joyce Hollis, Geoff

Rigby (s) 23 d. Yvonne Cashen, Tania Noles, Dorothy Gibson, John Gibson (s) 11.

Colleen Raynes, Beris Jones, Bill Livingston, Peter Hibberd (s) 12 lost to Sarah Polack, Pam Gould, Joan Earl, Thelma Moresi (s) 13.

Donald 45-0 lost to St. Arnaud 79-12.

Luke Kelly, Marion McEwen, Brenda Brennan, Beryl Milne (s) 19 lost to Anne McNally, Margaret McRae, Paul Micallef, Allan Welsh (s) 22.

Deborah Knight, Marg Kelly, Beth Hollis, Trevor Farrer (s) 9 lost to Andrea Tyler, Dianne Ostarcevic, Marie Hufer, Phil McRae (s) 27.

Margaret Quick, Kay Wyllie, Ev Adams, Hunter Wingfield (s) 17 lost to Heather Stevenson, Margaret McIntyre, Laurence Goodwin, Lloyd Goddard (s) 30.

St. Arnaud Country Club 37-0 lost to Wedderburn 78-12.

Dianne Fullarton, Yvonne Templar, Heather Esmore,



• Donald Golf and Boort players retire to the clubhouse for a cool drink. Front: Craig Newsome and Gillian Tweddle. Behind: Laurie Maxted and Robert Reseigh. Hidden is Phyl Baker.

Rhonda Pole (s) 9 lost to Helen Stephenson, Judy Matthews, Colin Mills, Alan Jackson (s) 33.

Steve Atkinson, Paul Mullins, Amanda Marland, Patricia Goode (s) 17 lost to Sandra Standfield, Sandra Steel, Amy Roberts, Laurie Witham (s) 19.

Faye Rodger, Suzanne

Wright, Lyn Moulday, Des Moulday (s) 11 lost to Robert Ashley, Joan Murnane, Ruth Hall, Andrew Caserta (s) 26.

Charlton 59-2 lost to Wycheproof 80-10.

Jeff Cox, Bernard Laffin, Dale McCallum, Ken North (s) 23 d. Carol Jones, Vince Grant, Jeannie Grylls, George Coatsworth (s) 22.

Mark Hamley, Eily Rosewall, John Headon, Kevin Willey (s) 15 lost to Des Nicholls, Lynette Nicholls, Alan Jones, Dale Groves (s) 31.

Gary Bateson, Wendy Laffin, Doug Finlay, Lynne Southwell (s) 21 lost to Andrea Coatsworth, Shirley McKenna, Aaron Mead, Matt Nicholls (s) 22.

North-Central Pennant Bowls

This Week's Selected Club Teams



DIVISION ONE

Round 12, Saturday, January 25

Wedderburn v. St Arnaud
Teams not available

Boort v. Donald
Team not available
DONALD

T. Farrer, J. Collins, L. Kelly, H. Wingfield (s)
M. Quick, E. Adams, L. Morgan, N. Hollis (s)
J. Meyer, B. Milne, T. Gravestock, P. Kelly (s)
Emergencies: D. Romeo
Cars: T. Farrer, L. Morgan, P. Kelly
Leave 11:40 a.m.

Wycheproof v. St. Arnaud Country Club
WYCHEPROOF

E. Rayes, G. Coatsworth, A. Mead, P. Wellington (s)
A. Coatsworth, P. Coles, D. Groves, G. Allen (s)
A. Jones, J. McLean, B. MacDonald, J. Grylls (s)
Manager: P. Connolly
Emergencies C. Jones, L. Nicholls, C. Rayes,
C. McLennan, N. Matheson, T. Casey
ST. ARNAUD COUNTRY CLUB
F. Rodger, L. Lynch, J. Nevill, J. Abbott (s)
D. Moulday, R. Pole, T. McDonald, B. Rodger (s)
A. Marland, T. Goode, D. Mullins, S. Elliott (s)
Manager: S. Elliott
Emergencies: T. McDonald

Charlton v. Donald Golf
CHARLTON

R. Porter, M. O'Brien, J. Cox, K. North (s)
Hamley, W. Southwell, D. McCallum, K. Willey (s)
L. Southwell, P. Watts, J. Headon, S. Perry (s)
Manager: K. Willey
Emergencies: G. Thomson, B. Patton, G. Barnard
DONALD GOLF
W. Livingston, G. Geddes, A. Humprey, D. Pettifer (s)
G. Stopps, B. Dixon, S. Hollis, P. Hibberd (s)
M. Frank, S. O'Shea, R. Adams, R. Reseigh (s)
Cars: Stopps, Reseigh, Hibberd. Leave at 12.20 p.m.

DIVISION TWO

Round 12, Saturday, January 25

Wedderburn v. St Arnaud
Teams not available

Boort v. Donald
Team not available
DONALD

J. Nelson, C. Perry, M. McEwen, D. Romeo (s)
G. Tweddle, S. Robertson, T. Noles, K. Wyllie (s)
C. Wood, B. Brennan, P. Gould, B. Hollis (s)
Cars: C. Perry D. Romeo, K. Wyllie
Leave 11:40 a.m.

Wycheproof v. St. Arnaud Country Club
WYCHEPROOF

V. Grant, D. Denney, L. Milburn, R. Grylls (s)
D. Nicholls, S. Barratt, J. Grylls, P. Connolly (s)
P. Bagley, S. Wellington, R. Coles, M. Nicholls (s)
Emergencies C. Jones, L. Nicholls, C. Rayes,
C. McLennan, N. Matheson, T. Casey
ST. ARNAUD COUNTRY CLUB
L. Watkins, K. Meade, C. Webb, J. Needs (s)
G. White, S. Atkinson, P. Mullins, P. Elliott (s)
N. Bales, M. Pole, G. Shaw, A. Bond (s)
Manager: J. Needs
Emergencies: G. White

Charlton v. Donald Golf
CHARLTON

R. Gahan, E. Rosewall, J. Ong, D. Finlay (s)
D. Beayu, Z. Irwin, S. Harper, D. Gretgrix (s)
B. Chester, W. Roberts, G. Bateson, M. Preston (s)
Manager: D. Beaty
Emergencies: G. Thomson, B. Patton, G. Barnard
DONALD GOLF
B. Bayles, M. Raynes, P. Raynes, G. Wood (s)
C. Stopps, B. Brasier, A. Dionosopolous, L. Borden (s)
E. Brasier, G. Bowles, J. Slater, J. Hollis (s)
Cars: Raynes, Borden, Wood. Leave at 12.20 p.m.



• With the hot weather and the health and safety of players, the Donald Golf versus Boort game was called off. These were the final scores.

MIDWEEK PENNANT BOWLS

Positions of Teams, after round 12

	P	W	L	D	Bye	F	A	SD	%	Pts
Wycheproof	12	11	1	0	0	965	703	262	137	121
Donald Golf	12	9	3	0	0	884	731	153	121	100
Wedderburn	12	7	5	0	0	931	733	198	127	88
St. Arnaud	12	6	6	0	0	717	800	-83	90	71
Boort	12	6	6	0	0	755	850	-95	89	70
Charlton	12	4	8	0	0	726	779	-53	93	53
Donald	12	2	9	1	0	714	888	-174	80	38
St. Arnaud Country Club	12	2	9	1	0	731	939	-208	78	35