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

Biosecurity for Grain Growers: GRDC Invests Extra \$3.5M.

Realistic biosecurity simulation exercises, the development of an Australian grains' biosecurity guide and the appointment of a national biosecurity co-ordinator are some of the latest proactive steps being taken to protect Australian grain growers against exotic plant pests.

The Grains Research and Development Corporation (GRDC) and Plant Health Australia (PHA) have recently signed a joint \$3.5 million Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to bolster the Grains Industry Biosecurity Plan 2023–28.

The additional investment will support the implementation of the national biosecurity plan, which was announced in August last year to strengthen biosecurity protections and help safeguard Australia's \$32 billion grains industry.

The extra \$3.5M from GRDC adds to the substantive investment Australian

growers make to biosecurity through the PHA/Biosecurity Activity Levy (approx \$2M/year), the Exotic Plant Pest Response Levy (approx \$1M/year) and a range of GRDC investments to address biotic threats (totalling \$56.8M in 2023–24).

The Grains Industry Biosecurity Plan has been developed to give industry, governments and stakeholders the expert framework and focus needed to help prevent, prepare for, and respond to grains-specific biosecurity incursions.

Managing Director
GRDC Managing Director Nigel Hart said the GRDC

\$3.5 million Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Plant Health Australia would help to further bolster biosecurity for the grains industry nationally.

Developed in collaboration with industry leaders and biosecurity experts, the plan identifies more than 1300 different exotic plant pests and disease threats that could impact the Australian grains industry. It also details a number of programs and proactive measures required to protect growers, industry and the economy.

Mr Hart said the MOU would provide another

• Continued on page 2.



• GRDC Managing Director Nigel Hart.

For Developing Workforce Accommodation . . . Transmission Company Seeks Public Input

Community members in the Buloke Shire are encouraged to share their interests and concerns with Transmission Company Victoria (TCV) to help shape the development of workforce accommodation for the VNI West project.

Recognising that many areas in the VNI West project corridor face housing availability and affordability challenges, we're inviting input on our approach to developing workforce accommodation. We are committed to understanding how we can progress VNI West in a way that meets local needs and creates long term, permanent housing solutions for communities impacted by the project.

The new workforce accommodation portal on the TCV website provides information about VNI West's workforce accommodation requirements and provides a new channel for community members to share ideas on TCV's approach to developing accommodation, and longer-term housing solutions. The portal is also where owners of land can submit an Expression of Interest for their properties to be assessed as

possible locations for use by the project during construction.

"We are committed to delivering long term housing benefits for local communities impacted by VNI West and our priority is to develop workforce accommodation that does not put any additional strain on existing local housing stock, services or infrastructure," said TCV spokesperson Claire Cass.

"We understand that housing availability and affordability are challenges that many areas in the project area are facing.

"Through the VNI West Social Value Reference Group, we are working directly with local Councils and other key stakeholders to identify opportunities to deliver lasting community benefits in areas including training and skills development, energy access and housing solutions," she said.

As early planning for construction begins, TCV must identify potential workforce

accommodation and construction laydown sites and assess their suitability through a rigorous impact assessment as part of the Environment Effects Statement (EES) process. In parallel with determining permanent housing solutions, TCV is seeking sites via the Expression of Interest process that are suitable for:

- Temporary workforce accommodation – up to three sites of about 12 hectares each to accommodate up to 200 people each at peak construction; or

- Construction laydown areas – up to eight sites of about 5 hectares each; or



• Combined accommodation and laydown area sites.

Loddon, Gannawarra, Northern Grampians and Buloke Shire Councils recently met with TCV, providing region specific insights to the selection criteria for the Expression of Interest process to support identification of suitable workforce accommodation and construction laydown sites.

Site selection criteria include proximity to the preferred

• Continued on page 2.

Never Miss an Opportunity

"If it's good enough for the cricketers to have a drink on the ground on a hot day, why can't I?"

That could well have been the question in the mind of Maggie the Magpie as she grabbed the chance at the Jeffcott oval in Donald on Saturday.

Feathered friends have long made the most of things they find on country sporting grounds.

Particularly is this the case if spectators are inclined to ditch their sandwich crusts or other unwanted items around the boundary.

On this occasion, Maggie has spotted an uncoupled hose, and is making the most of a free drink, courtesy of Grampians Wimmera Mallee Water.

• Saturday's cricket details are in today's sports pages.



Letter to the Editor



Graffiti Attack

(The Editor, "The Times")

Dear Sir.— The recent anti-Semitic graffiti attack in Barclay Square, Red Cliffs, is a vile act of hatred and is deserving of condemnation.

Such disgusting behaviour is not only offensive but entirely un-Australian. Our nation prides itself on values of fairness, respect, and multiculturalism - there is no place for antisemitism here.

Public squares are spaces for the entire community, places of gathering, enjoyment and unity. To deface such a space with hateful rhetoric is not just an act of vandalism, but a blatant attempt to spread division and fear. It is particularly shameful that this occurred at a time when the world is watching

fragile peace talks in Gaza, hoping for an end to conflict and suffering. If anything, now is a time for dialogue and understanding, not acts that fuel hatred.

This attack is not just an insult to those targeted — it is an attack on the values we hold as Australians. Targeting one sector of our community because of their religion is unacceptable. We must stand together to reject this cowardly act, ensure those responsible are held accountable, and commit to stronger education against antisemitism and all for.

Now, more than ever, our community must choose respect over division and unity over hate.

Jade Benham, MP.

GRDC Invests Extra \$3.5M.

• Continued from page 1. \$3.5M to allow critical measures to be implemented.

Main Partners

"GRDC on behalf of Australian grain growers is investing in this work with our main partners Plant Health Australia," he said.

"We are doing this to support the industry to develop improved biosecurity practices, so we are prepared and proactively guarding against the very real threat exotic pests and diseases pose to agriculture.

"Importantly this plan has the support of the entire industry. We are working together to ensure the systems are in place to allow us to be responsive and act in a timely way — two critical factors that can be the difference between effective control and industry devastation."

Benefits

Sarah Corcoran, PHA Chief Executive Officer, emphasised that while grain growers and the broader agricultural sector were the main beneficiaries of a strong and proactive biosecurity plan, benefits extended to governments, industry, researchers and the wider Australian community.

"The grains industry is a vital contributor to both Australia's national economy and many regional economies," Ms Corcoran said.

"As biosecurity threats grow more complex in our changing world, it is crucial that we unite our efforts with a shared purpose and clear, measurable outcomes.

"We intend to build on previous initiatives to identify pressing current and emerging exotic pests of greatest concern to the grains industry,

with a practical guide outlining key areas for surveillance, education, and mitigation efforts.

Decisions

"This will enable both industry and government to make informed decisions in response to growing biosecurity challenges facing Australia.

"At the heart of this agreement is a strong partnership framework, ensuring that both the GRDC and PHA are as prepared as possible to combat some of the world's most devastating exotic pests."

The biosecurity plan will be reviewed and updated regularly over coming years with a particular focus on three main areas:

- Pest risk scanning to ensure we capture and learn from the latest international literature on our key pest threats.

- Ongoing co-ordination of the development and management of preparedness information resources.

- Reviewing the plan's progress to improve understanding of pest risk profiles and entry pathways, and to target surveillance efforts to areas of greatest risk.

The plan also details development of an enhanced partnership approach between key players.

About GRDC

GRDC is one of 15 Rural Research and Development Corporations (RDCs) responsible for planning, investing in and overseeing research, development and extension for 25 leviable grain crops. Our purpose is to invest in RD&E to create enduring profitability for Australian grain growers.

Transmission Company Seeks Public Input

• Continued from page 1.

easement, main road connections, opportunities for legacy benefit creation, flood overlay and ecology considerations, topography, bushfire risk, availability of services, cultural heritage matters as well as proximity to towns and existing dwellings.

Each site submission received will be assessed against the criteria and then reviewed alongside other land options available; where a site is ultimately selected for assessment, an initial access payment to the property owner will be made for EES site survey and due diligence purposes.

If a site is deemed suitable for use, it is likely that TCV would seek to enter into a commercial lease agreement with the property owner, for which TCV would pay rent.

Workforce accommodation for VNI West includes the lodgings and infrastructure required to house the project's employees and contracting staff. Construction laydown areas will store construction materials and equipment, including storage and stockpiling facilities, vehicle and equipment storage, demountable site offices and amenities.

These sites will be required for the duration of construction, plus approximately six months prior to and after construction. Once construction is complete, sites will be remediated to pre-existing condition as detailed in an individual Property Management Plan, prepared by TCV in consultation with site owners.

Owners of land within or close to the VNI West project area are encouraged to visit the workforce accommodation portal to learn more and submit an Expression of Interest: www.transmissionvictoria.com.au/vni-west-workforce-accommodation

About VNI West

VNI West is a major project to build a new transmission line between Victoria and New South Wales. It will harness renewable energy in both states and improve the reliability and security of electricity supply as coal fired power stations retire and energy demand continues to grow. As coal-fired power stations retire, new renewable energy generation will be built to fill the supply gap. New transmission lines are needed to connect this power with our homes and businesses and improve reliability. In Victoria, a preferred easement of 70m wide along most of the route has been identified. The easement runs from Bulgana to near Kerang and then across the border into New South Wales.

Construction is scheduled to commence after all ap-

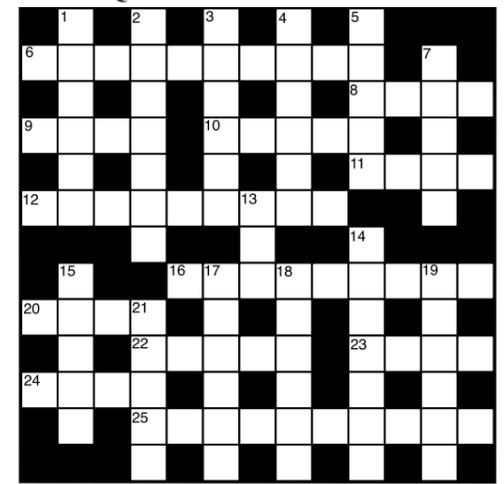
provals have been obtained, in 2026.

About TCV

Transmission Company Victoria (TCV) is a company created by AEMO Victorian Planning to progress the VNI West transmission project. TCV will discuss the VNI West transmission project with landholders, Traditional Owners and the community to understand local concerns as the project moves toward construction. As AEMO is the system planner and will not physically construct or own the transmission lines, it established TCV to make sure that commitments made in the early stages are captured and honoured across the life of the project. TCV will provide project updates and will work with the community on this important transmission line. For more information, head to www.transmissionvictoria.com.au

"Times" Crossword

QUICK PUZZLE NO. 8165



ACROSS

- 6. Overbearing (4-6)
- 8. Skulk (4)
- 9. Paradise (4)
- 10. Over (5)
- 11. Foul (4)
- 12. Discuss terms (9)
- 16. Onlooker (9)
- 20. Group (4)
- 22. Beverage (5)
- 23. Scruff (4)
- 24. Metal (4)
- 25. Incomplete (10)

DOWN

- 1. Sieve (6)
- 2. Apparition (7)
- 3. Sausage (6)
- 4. Dexterous (6)
- 5. Good-for-nothing (5)
- 7. Edge (5)
- 13. Beer (3)
- 14. Sully (7)
- 15. Mind (5)
- 17. Calm down (6)
- 18. Chink (6)
- 19. Bird (6)
- 21. Happen (5)

• Solution next issue.

Welcome to Wycheproof College

Wycheproof P-12 College welcomed six very excited preps this year and wish them all the best.



• Front row: Sadie Cunningham, Scottie Allan, Aaron Lacey. Middle: Fletcher Pardella, Athena Harris-Zinko, Alexandra Tischler. Back: Prep/1 teacher Mrs Nikki Coatsworth.



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Have Your Say On Library Service

The Buloke Shire community is invited to help shape the future of its local library services as part of a Library Services Review.

The review aims to hear feedback from residents, stakeholders, library members and non-members, to ensure that the Buloke Shire library services remain accessible, sustainable, and responsive since separating from the Wimmera Regional Library Corporation in 2018.

Buloke Shire Council Mayor, Cr. Alan Getley, said the review is an important opportunity for the community to provide input on how library services could evolve.

“Libraries play a vital role in our communities – they are places for learning, connection, and access to important resources”, the Mayor said.

“As technology and community needs change, we want to ensure our library services remain relevant, accessible and inclusive for everyone in Buloke Shire”.

Survey

Community members are encouraged to share their experiences and ideas via a survey open now until March 2, 2025.

The online survey is available via Council’s “Have your Say” webpage at www.buloke.vic.gov.au

Hard copies of the survey are also available at the Buloke Community Libraries in Charlton, Birchip, Donald, Sea Lake and Wycheproof, the Wycheproof Customer Service Centre and the from the Mobile Library Service.

Consultation

Pop-up community consultations will also be held across the Buloke Shire from February 24 to 28, 2025. Full details on times and locations are available via www.buloke.vic.gov.au



• Buloke Library Bus.

www.buloke.vic.gov.au/buloke-shire-council-library-service-review

Feedback received via the survey and pop-up consultations will help guide future

changes and improvements to Buloke Community Library Services which may include library facilities, increasing digital access, and enhancing

programs and services

The final report, informed by community input, will be presented to Council in April 2025.

For more information about the Buloke Community Library Services Review, contact 1300 520 520 or email buloke@buloke.vic.gov.au

M.P. Calls For Housing Support Investigation

The ANAO has confirmed that it will consider investigating the Federal Government’s Housing Support Program as part of its 2025-2026 audit program.

Member for Mallee, Dr Anne Webster, officially requested that the Auditor-General examine probity and potential bias in the program.

Dr Webster said she became concerned that, despite a critical housing shortage across her electorate, including Mildura, Swan Hill, Horsham and scores of smaller towns, none received funding in the Government’s Program funding round announcement last month.

Allocations

On January 16, the Federal Government issued a press release from the minister responsible, Catherine King, announcing the allocations to the Housing Support Program in Victoria.

The only places in Victoria to be extended funding for

enabling housing infrastructure were in Marong, Morwell, Ararat and Beaufort, according to the release.

Further analysis suggests the bulk of the funding, more than 70 per cent, was allocated to projects in Labor-held electorates – Ballarat, McEwen and Bendigo.

No Mallee Funding

“It was alarming that no funding was allocated to my electorate of Mallee, which is over a third of the state of Victoria. I have twelve shires and not one received any support,” said Dr. Webster.

“Mallee shires do not have the wealth of larger city councils and desperately need a government injection of funding for deeply necessary housing in small communities.

“It leads me to question whether the Program was granting funds in accordance with stated criteria, and whether that criterion was appropriate in the circumstances.

“Consequently, I wrote to the Auditor-General, Dr Caralee McLiesh PSM, and an investigation has been initiated.

“I welcome this undertaking by Dr McLiesh and the ANAO, because housing and sky-rocketing rents are such a problem – not just in my electorate, but across the state of Victoria.”

Acute Shortage

The Shadow Minister for Infrastructure Transport and Regional Development, Bridget McKenzie said regional Australia was suffering from the most acute shortage of

housing in decades, which had been exacerbated by the Government’s decision to bring in more than a million new migrants in two years.

“We face an urgent problem in the housing and rental markets, and we urgently need to fast-track housing projects with enabling infrastructure such as roads, sewage

and water,” Senator McKenzie said.

“And we need to have confidence that any allocations under this Program are being applied where the need is greatest, not where it is politically convenient.”

Pledge

The Liberal Nationals Coalition has pledged \$5 billion

to invest in enabling infrastructure like water, power, sewage and access roads to unlock necessary new housing supply for 500,000 new homes and keep the Australian dream of home ownership alive. Under this pledge 30 per cent of the funding will go to rural and regional Australia.

“A Complete Unknown”

The biographical film about folk musician turned mainstream rock star, Bob Dylan is the theme of this weekend’s movie screening at The Rex.

Starring Timothée Chalamet, as Dylan, the film explores not just his music, but also the historical and cultural shifts of his era, taking the audience on a journey spanning the first four years of his music career when he first came to New York as a “complete unknown” in 1961, through to the infamous 1965 appearance at the Newport Folk Festival where he turned folk music electric. The societal changes of the time are intertwined with Dylan’s artistic journey.

The music is the soul of this film. The renditions are emotionally stirring, blending seamlessly with the story. From “Blowin’ in the Wind” to “Like a Rolling Stone,” the music becomes the force,

weaving through the story with purpose and impact. Dylan’s songs reflect the uncertainties of the times when nuclear war and civil rights were at the forefront of people’s minds.

Audience reviewers who lived through the era have labelled the film a “profound tribute” to the artist – while still revealing the “complexities of Bob Dylan’s ascent to cultural immortality”.

The people who shaped Dylan’s identity, such as folk musician, Pete Seeger (Edward Norton), singer Joan Baez (Monica Barbaro) who helped to bring his music to a bigger audience, and Johnny Cash, who inspired Dylan’s rebellious streak, are not glossed over, but presented –

flaws and all – as the people they truly were.

Director James Mangold, who also made the equally spell-binding Johnny Cash bio-pic “Walk the Line” (2005) is clearly in his element when it comes to depicting musical personalities.

“A Complete Unknown” has been nominated for 8 Academy Awards including Best Picture, Best Actor (Chalamet) and Best Director (Mangold), and captures the time when music truly had the power to change everything.

A movie not to be missed! “A Complete Unknown” (M 141 minutes) screens at The Rex – Saturday, February 22, 8 p.m. | Sunday, February 23 2 p.m. | Tuesday February 25, 8 p.m..

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DEATH

ALLAN (Holland).—
Fay Irving
June 3, 1928 –
February 14, 2025
Aged 96 years
Passed away peacefully
at Grandview Lodge,
Wycheproof.

Loved daughter of the late Robert Leslie and Nellie Irving Holland.

Loved sister of Keith, Joyce and twin sister Nellie Muriel (all dec.).
Loved wife of Donald (dec.).

Treasured and loved Mum of Marlene, Christine and Brenda.

Adored Grandma of Shane and Sharyn, Paul and Jaclyn, Cable and Jen, Cassie and Henry and Tenille.

Very proud GG of Seth, Mia, Isla, Eva, Nate, Hamish, Zoe and Charlie. Fay's kindness touched the hearts of all who knew her.

Will always be remembered and forever in our hearts.

For funeral arrangements see our website: kellyfuneralsbirchip.com.au

Mark and Raelene O'Halloran
KELLY FUNERALS BIRCHIP

Inc. **KELLY**
5492 2547



**AMBULANCE PHONE NO.
000**

DEATH

ALLAN.— Fay
Fond memories of a dear friend and cousin. I will miss our regular visits. Love to Marlene, Christine and Brenda.

—Rex (dec.), Elvira and family.

A life well lived.

DEATH

ALLAN.— Fay
Lifelong cousins, friends and neighbour at Narraport to the Currie family. Deepest sympathy to Marlene, Chris, BJ and families.

—Neil, Lindy and Jill & families.

DEATH

ALLAN.— Fay
Lifelong and dear friend of Marj and Bruce Currie (both dec.)

Loved Auntie Fay of Elaine, Joan, Glenys, Kathryn and families.

We will all treasure the wonderful memories of the times we shared.

Our thoughts are with Marlene, Christine, Brenda and their families.

The Buloke Times

Coloured Photographs

Copies of "Times" photos can be purchased from our office/s. Photos not published may also be available.

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

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DEATH

HOGAN (Rickard).—
Valerie Faye
11-11-1929 to 16-02-2025
(95 years)
Passed away peacefully
in Birchip on
Sunday February, 16.

Loving wife of Leo (dec).
Much loved mother of
Danny, Rozanne, Leigh &
Sharyn.

Mother-in-law of Kylie,
Jenny & Luke.
Loved Nan to Brendan,
Andrew, Kate, Liam (dec.),
Laura & Callum. Nycole,
Melanie & Michael.
Conor, Sophie & Brittany.
Great-nan to 9 great
grandchildren.

For funeral
arrangements see our
website: kellyfuneralsbirchip.com.au

Mark and Raelene O'Halloran
KELLY FUNERALS BIRCHIP

Inc. **KELLY**
5492 2547

DEATH

MULQUINY
Mary Veronica

Passed away peacefully at
Charlton Aged Care on
February 9th, 2025.
Aged 96 years.

Loved Daughter of Michael
and Johanna (Both Dec).

Loved Sister of Jack, Des
and Tom (All Dec).

Loved Aunt of Maureen
Turner, John, Colleen, Val
Brennan, Mathew, Joanne,
Brendan, Brian, Jacque
Gildea, Susan McKeown,
Paul, Neil and Jason and
their families.

A carer for all her family.
'Rest In Peace Mary'

FUNERAL MULQUINY.

Mass of Thanksgiving to
celebrate the life of the
late **Mary Veronica
MULQUINY** will be held
at St. Joseph's Church, 7
Learmonth Street, Charlton
on **WEDNESDAY**
(February 19th, 2025)
commencing at 11.00am.

The Funeral cortege will
leave at the conclusion of
Mass for the Charlton
Lawn Cemetery.

For Funeral details,
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- Feb. 20 Harold & Jan Flett 55th Wedding Anniversary
- February 21, Gerry Hazewinkel
- Feb. 22, Shirley Letts
- Feb. 23, Michelle Donnellon

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COMING ATTRACTIONS

A COMPLETE UNKNOWN
M 141 mins | Bio | Music | Drama

Sat 22 Feb 8pm
Sun 23 Feb 2pm
Tue 25 Feb 8pm

COMING: THE BRUTALIST
MA15+ 215 mins | Drama

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Contact: Tom Sheridan
M: 0461 492 601
E: tom@hillviewco.com.au

Support Services

Adult

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lifeline.org.au

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

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

MensLine Australia: 1300 789 978
mensline.org.au

StandBy Support After Suicide
 1300 727 247

Youth

Kids Helpline: 1800 551 800
kidshelpline.com.au

headspace: 1800 650 890
headspace.org.au

ReachOut: ReachOut.com

Other resources

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

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

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

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

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

Culturally and linguistically diverse: embracementalhealth.org.au

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• Northern Grampians Shire councillor Justine Hide, former Great Western Football Netball Club president Tracey McCartney, Member for Western Victoria Jacinta Ermacora, mayor Karen Hyslop and councillors Jenny Greenberger and Jack Blake.



• Member for Western Victoria Jacinta Ermacora.

Great Western's Big Win

Years of campaigning, fundraising and a football-netball season without a home base have paid off for the Great Western community, which this week celebrated the official opening of a facility that will benefit the region for decades to come.

Member for Western Victoria Jacinta Ermacora opened the \$2.6-million Great Western Recreation Reserve Pavilion last Tuesday, alongside Northern Grampians Shire councillors and staff, Great Western Football Netball Club leaders and representatives from MKM Construction, which delivered the project to fruition.

The project has been in the pipeline since a pavilion upgrade was identified as a priority in the Great Western Public Park and Gardens Reserve Redevelopment Master plan 2018-28 and the Council Action Plan 2023-24.

The existing clubroom and available amenities did not meet AFL Victoria, Cricket Victoria and Netball Victoria standards, particularly the changeroom accessibility requirements.

Funding

The State Government provided \$1.5-million for the redevelopment through Sport and Recreation Victoria, the council \$1.097-million and Great Western Football Netball Club, \$40,000.

The football-netball club is the primary user of the pavilion, with Swifts Great Western Cricket Club also using the reserve as a base.

The redevelopment project involved upgrading the existing function room, canteen, kitchen, bar and accessible public toilets; creating modern change rooms suitable for both female and male players; the construction of a trainer/medical room; accessible umpire rooms; and an extension to provide additional storage, office areas and a larger undercover spectator area.

Standards

Mayor Karen Hyslop said the redevelopment was designed with contemporary sporting standards in mind.

"The project control group that led the design had a strong focus on universal accessibility, female participation, and creating a space that meets the needs of our growing community," she said.

"The sporting community is growing, and it is vital that we provide the best possible facilities for our athletes, particularly as we continue to see more women and girls engaging in sport at all levels."

Cr Hyslop said she was confident the upgraded pavilion would benefit the wider Great Western community for generations.

"They now have a modern, accessible space for athletes, families and supporters to

come together and thrive," she said.

Opening

Ms Ermacora, representing Community Sport Minister Ros Spence at the grand opening, congratulated all parties involved in the redevelopment.

"The role of council in facilitating good planning and community consultation with clubs like these, and also having access to great project managers to deliver the work, is an important catalyst for a project such as this one," she said.

"Councils play an important role in validating applications which come to the state government level.

"This project has been a team effort and shows what we can achieve as partners."

Ms Ermacora said it was exciting for the community to have a pavilion and facilities accessible to people of all ages and abilities, with an emphasis on encouraging female participation.

Commitment

"Premier Jacinta Allen, Minister Ros Spence and I are very committed to equity and inclusion when it comes to sport," she said.

"Like many, many women, I too remember the days of changing into my netball uniform in the backseat of the car while we watched the boys play on the oval. We've come a long way from that.

"You can be assured that our government remains committed to equity and inclusion in sport. Everybody has a right to participate in sport and have a healthy lifestyle as a result.

"The pavilion is a great win for the locals of Great Western."

Great Western Football Netball Club president Dale Hurley thanked everyone who helped deliver the project, from the initial stages through to the finished product.

"We would like to thank our loyal band of locals who contributed financially to this project," he said.

"Some are recent arrivals to our community, some have been here for generations, but they all have one commonality – a shared commitment to Great Western's future."

Opportunity

Mr Hurley said he looked forward to the pavilion providing an opportunity for families to connect, for kids to play safely, and for people to be active and social.

"Last year was tough for our club, playing on location all year, and our players and supporters were amazing through that period," he said.

"We can't wait to play at home this season and bring our country town back together.

"We would like to share a message to the broader Great Western community – this is yours, ours, together as one.

"Our club is proud to represent our town and we remain committed to bringing the community together in this space."



Letter to the Editor



Donald and District – A Natural Autarky

(Autarky: to practice the promotion of fair, social, cultural, economic self-sufficiency and independence.)

(The Editor, "The Times")

Dear Sir.— Donald experiences as populated in the main with individuals of a D.I.Y. and team mentality. If you want work then work for it; you'll find employment in Donald. There are no pokies or the TAB in the pubs to take your last dollar.

Donald has many private groupings/associations promoting and assistive of endeavours central to individual and community wellbeing.

Education is focused on mentoring with pastoral care from kindergarten to primary, then high school, having many gifted teachers of long dedicated service. Healthcare achieves with one medical

practice, chemist shop, public hospital, air ambulance, two intensive care ambulances, culminating in the excellence of the Goodwin Village, the hostel, which is a place of happy, patience and compassion.

Services: the volunteers of the fire brigade never fail to respond, regardless of time of day or weather, as do our small but ably supportive, Donald Police force.

Media: Thanks be to the stolid "Buloke Times" of Donald, the provider for decades of best in class news reportage, biased to supporting the shire, history recorded weekly with pictures!

Business: The unique local business community that combines to afford a special Christmas raffle event with street fair annually. Where else does that happen?

Charity: The Hub at Christmas with IGA and its customers combining to provide the "essentials" to the neediest of the community inclusive of the donation of toys.

Sport: A sporting environment of excellence with separate grounds for footy, cricket, hockey, basketball, netball, archery and indoor sports in air-conditioned spaces!

The mighty Donald Men's Shed which has a strong tradition of "can-do", a welcoming place with a cuppa and biscuits (usually Kookas), sometimes fruit cake!

The Op-Shop and Historical Society volunteer ladies always welcoming, cheering and full of good banter.

Agriculture: Thank you to the Donald and district farmers, incredibly competitively advanced in practice, innovative, together with newer

intensive farming agricultural enterprises, ever onward looking.

Communications: The new tower at 62 metres is the tallest, located at the Donald industrial estate, that can be built presently. Donald now with two towers with "real" fibre optic connectivity is fit to modern broader communication functionality for all.

Water: The upgraded sewage works is modern to great future development, currently looking to achieve up to 100 megalitres annually of recyclable water for council use, fire-fighting, the golf course or river health etc., is a good welcome applied innovation and advancement.

Energy: The in-process development of the old water reservoirs for the generation, storage and diesel based provision of energy independence

to the Donald community and supportive to the future development of the Donald industrial estate, needs more work but at least the project exists on the ground!

Donald and district in many ways reflects the best Australian country tradition of sui generis. (*Sui generis being in a class of its own, unique, peculiar.*)

So, if the council could just see its way clear to understand that positive growth of business has engendered new employment stultified by a lack of accommodation and new housing approvals, for these regional young and new Australians to rent, to save for their own piece of the Australian dream. Additionally provisioning for rural living blocks and envision continuing further industrial development (all plainly popular), then Donald and district

should be "all right" for the future. I would discourage Buloke focus on, say, the recent 87% rate increase voted up by the North Sydney Council. Please think in a positive manner of other paths to improved income with gusto.

Kind regards,
William,
St. George's Hall,
Donald.

Your Blood is Worth Bottling

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

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



Dealing With Dementia

Thirty-six members who attended Charlton Probus Club's general meeting in February held a minute's silence for Mary Mulquiny, who was a foundation member.

David Beaty gave a brief talk about Space X and then showed a short video.

Graham Curnow then recited the Banjo Paterson poem "In the Droving Days."

The guest speaker was Heather Cooper, a Dementia Australia Advocate and also a person with a dementia diagnosis. Heather spoke about community attitudes to Dementia. In Australia the approach is to enfold folk with dementia in a supportive, active community. Dementia Advocates stress that people

do not "suffer" with dementia but are on a Dementia Adventure! Advocates are "Out and Proud" with their disability.

Disability

Advocates are working to have dementia recognised as a disability, not an illness. Dementia cannot be seen, so Heather regards it as her duty to inform strangers of her condition, so that they do not suffer shame or embarrassment in their interactions with her. In her "coming out" Heather has been greeted with admiration for her courage.

People can be fearful of admitting the possibility of dementia to themselves and their medical support, but this could mean they lose their right to self determination. Self determination can include the right to have or not have medical treatment, which nursing home you go to and your funeral arrangements.

Have Conditions Checked

Heather urged us to encourage people with memory problems to have their mental condition checked out post haste. Do not deny symptoms. There is a diagnosis called frailty – a decline of physical and cognitive reserves. Cognitive decline can be minimised by exercising heartily, sleeping well and socialising often.

Heather spoke of a few practical ideas to aid a person with dementia, for example, put out your clothes the night before, have open shelving in the bathroom, have curtains in front of kitchen cupboards rather than doors. Try to decrease the amount of stress or anxiety in your life.

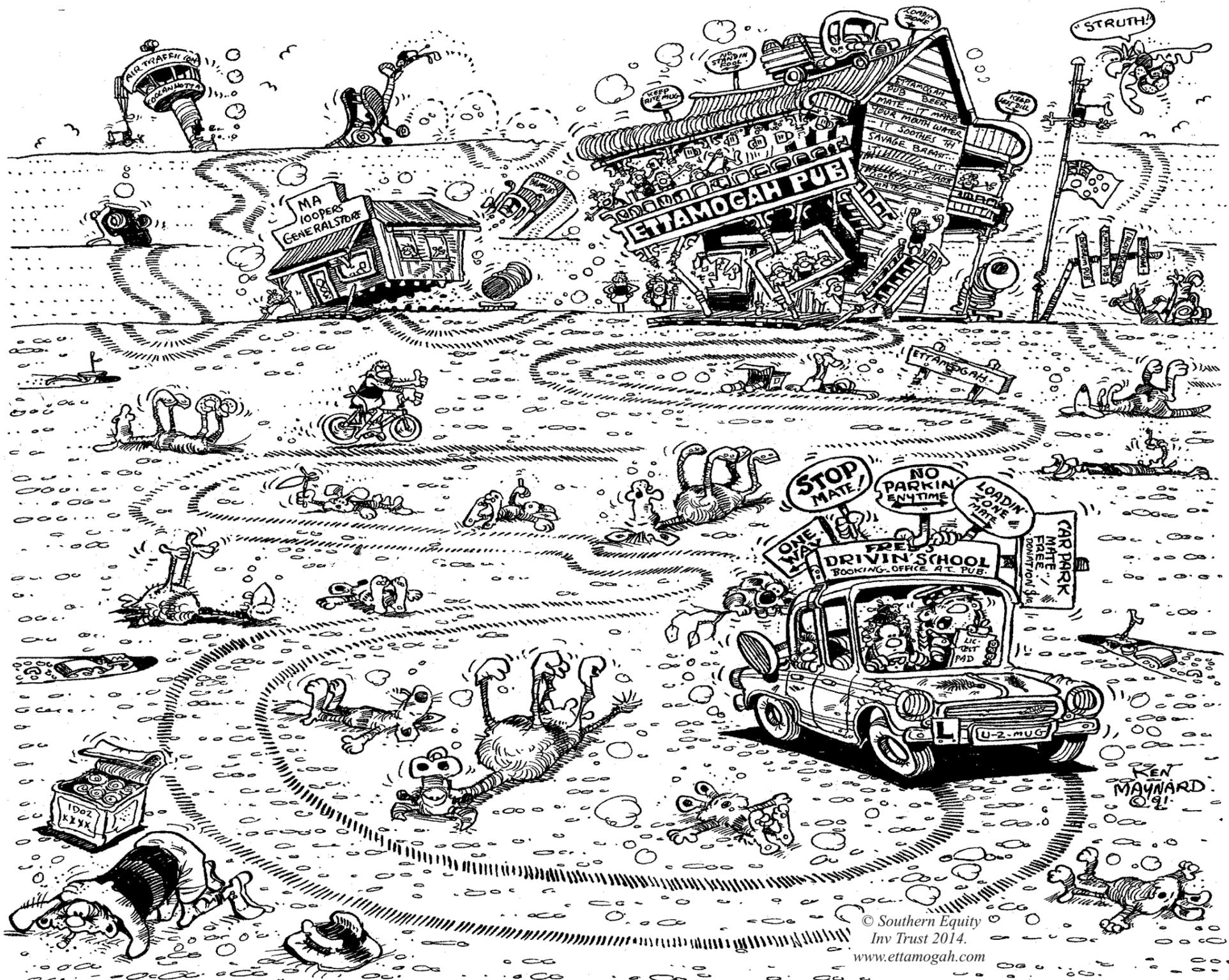
Dementia Australia is available for assistance 24/7. The club thanks Heather for her vibrant talk.



• Kim Wishart, left, alongside guest speaker Heather Cooper.



The Ettamogah Pub Mob



"Let's try that reverse parking bit again ... I think you missed Brendan on his bicycle!"

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www.ettamogah.com

Charlton 100 Years Ago

(Information from "East Charlton Tribune")

February 14 to 18, 1925.

Great Dispersal: Gigantic will be the clearing sale to be conducted by Messrs Thos. Morrow and Co. W. H. Gray and Son, and A. J. Simpson and Co, on account of Mr W. A. Merrylees, at the Homestead, 5 miles from Charlton, on Friday, 6th March. There will be offered the Homestead block of about 1600 acres; 2300 acres, known as Peverill's; 45 horses; 40 cattle; 830 sheep; and 3 pigs; harness; a host of implements; vehicles, furniture, etc. Owing to the large number of offerings, the sale will start at 9.30 a.m..

Handicapped Band: At a meeting of the Brass Band committee the President, Mr G. A. Babidge, in the chair, the matter of competing at Wycheproof was discussed and it was decided to take part. The band is in a somewhat unfortunate position in regard to travelling. A special train is being run in the morning; but, on account of its being sale day, the members have to work till dinner time, and cars must be resorted to. Under the circumstances, the offer of the use of private cars would be appreciated.

Wedding Bells: A very pretty wedding was celebrated in St Joseph's Church on Tuesday morning, when Vera, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs W.J. Shepherd, Dumosa,

was united in Holy Matrimony to Thomas, eldest son of the late Mr and Mrs T. Constable, Berrimal. The ceremony was performed by Rev. Fr Conway. The wedding breakfast was held at McAuliffe's East Charlton Hotel, where the tables were beautifully decorated, the colour scheme being pale pink and blue. The bride and bridegroom left by the 1.20 p.m. train for Melbourne, where the honeymoon is being spent. The future home

of Mr and Mrs Constable will be at Glenloth.

The Gun: A gold-mounted fountain pen, donated by Andrew Jack Dyson and Co, and a ham, donated by Mr N. Frahm, were competed for at the trophy shoots under the auspices of the Gun Club. The shoot-off for the pen was won by "Terrapee," who killed 13 birds out of 14 with his first barrel, and was closely followed by A. J. White. In the shoot-off for the 6-bird

sweepstake added to the ham "Terrapee" and A.C. Bertoli divided the ham. Bertoli, who missed his first two birds for the pen, had the longest succession recorded during the day - 17 birds.

Your Teeth: Owing to pressure of business, Mr J. H. Knight, surgical and mechanical dentist, has decided to give Charlton a better service. He has been successful in obtaining the services of Mr Fraser, who has a wide experience in

dentistry, and Mr Ryan. Mr Knight and Mr Ryan will visit Charlton every Wednesday, and Mr Fraser will be in Charlton all day Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays, until 9 p.m. and on Mondays until 3.30 p.m..

Half Holiday: A subject that he declared ought to have been taken up long before by the Progress Association was brought forward by Cr W. Williams at the last meeting, namely the half-holiday. The

present arrangement was unsuitable to town, country and visitors. The Association could find out what shops and businesses were entitled to vote on this question. Mr L. A. Wilkinson did not suppose another instance could be found in the State of a town having a half-holiday on sale day. A motion was moved that the Association ascertain how many business people were prepared to stand up for a change from the day they were always condemning, Wednesday.



• C. J. Gane: (on big drum) Harold Jenkins, G. Babidge, Alf Dabron and Len Cassell.

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Birchip P-12 School News

Les Cooper, a current year 12 student at Birchip P-12, was the winner of the National 2025 Heywire competition run by the ABC. There were 38 recipients from across the country, and Les was one of the few chosen from Victoria.

Last week Les flew to Canberra to attend a five-day immersive summit of workshops and professional development. The last day of the program was attending the sitting of Parliament and Les presented a “youth ignite pitch” in the Grand Hall. The focus of his pitch was on re-engaging youth in rural areas, who were experiencing boredom due to isolation and a lack of youth-focused entertainment.

Les found that the experience put into perspective how lucky he is growing up in a supportive and tight-knit community in the Mallee.

Breakfast Program

The breakfast program at Birchip P-12 School has been going from strength to strength since it was established in November 2020. Participation numbers have increased from 2020 from 520 attendees across the year to 4,112 attendees. They have served 14,401 breakfasts in that time period. The breakfast club is made possible due to donations from the CWA

and the Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Program, as well as school investments in kitchen equipment. The program, run by Bernadette Smith and vol-

unteer staff, is making sure that students have access to a nutritious breakfast, as well as “brain-food” throughout the day.



• Breakfast club ready for students.



• Les Cooper and M.P. Dr Anne Webster at the Heywire Summit in Canberra.

Hold Must Be Put On Egg Production Changes

Victoria’s cost of living crisis will get much worse under the State Government as it marches on with proposed changes to egg production, making one of our favourite kitchen staples much more expensive.

“Premier Jacinta Allan must work with the Federal Government to pause the proposed phasing out of conventional cages by 2036 until a reliable supply of eggs to everyday customers and businesses can be guaranteed,” said Shadow Agriculture Minister, Emma Kealy.

“All forms of egg production must be protected and utilised to maintain future supply, with on-going outbreaks of avian influenza posing a significant threat.

“Future shortages will drive up prices for families and businesses – and Premier Allan should back producers, who lead the way in best practice.

“It’s time for the Premier to stand up for our farmers and hardworking families, rather than making them pay for expensive, unnecessary and unwanted changes to egg production in Victoria,” Ms Kealy said.

“Eggs are an affordable source of protein for many

Victorians, and our Victorian egg producers have an excellent reputation when it comes to caring for their hens.

“Victorians deserve the respect of being able to choose for themselves the type of eggs they want to eat, at the price point they can afford, while knowing that all chickens are treated well and without harm or cruelty.

“Victorian egg farmers lead the way in best practice and treatment of their hens.”

Youth Parliament Launched

The Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Honourable Milton Dick, MP, has launched a National Youth Parliament, to be held in 2026.

The National Youth Parliament will see 150 high school students selected to represent each electorate across Australia to participate in a three-day program in Canberra, including at Australia’s Parliament House.

Youth Members will have the unique opportunity to learn about aspects of being a Member of Parliament, including the process by which bills are drafted, considered, and pass Parliament to become law.

The National Youth Parliament will complement the Speaker’s existing civics education program, Parliament in Schools, which has already

been delivered to over 145 schools across Australia, including regional and remote schools.

The National Youth Parliament will begin taking applications in the second half of this year.

First Time

“I am so proud that for the first time, the House of Representatives – the people’s House – will be hosting this great program here in Canberra,” said Mr. Dick.

“The National Youth Parliament will give our young people a national platform to contribute to democracy and politics through a hands-on experience.

“Young people have a vital role to play in public discussion, and a youth parliament is a meaningful and sustained youth engagement model that we have seen across Australia and the Commonwealth.

“I am so passionate about setting up the foundations to ensure our next generation have the skills, tools and knowledge to lead this country through the challenges of our future.

“I look forward to welcoming students from all over Australia to develop their appreciation of civics, parliamentary debate and of course, strengthening our great democracy.”

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The Natural Garden

With the arrival of Spring, we tend to spend more time out-of-doors, and many of us spend this time in our gardens.

Gardening is one of the best physical activities you can do, as it comes with countless physical and mental health benefits. Moreover, fresh and home-grown produce is of much higher quality than the fruit and vegetables we buy at a grocery store or supermarket. The natural taste of organically grown food is simply incomparable.

But did you know that common bicarbonate of soda can be your magic wand in the garden? It is a safer and cheaper

way to take care of your garden.

To keep flying insects and grubs away, mix one tablespoon of olive oil, two tablespoons of bicarbonate of soda, and a couple of drops of non-phosphate liquid soap with five litres of water. Spray it in the garden every three days. Gently spray this mixture in the garden every three days to keep the bugs away.

Mix flour and bicarbonate of soda in equal amounts and dust any produce growing that

is attacked by white moth, caterpillars, aphids, thrips and spider mites – you will destroy them. Add 25 percent powered cayenne pepper to the dusting powder and it can be used to discourage fruit fly before the fruit ripens.

If fungus and powdery mildew are a problem, mix one tablespoon of bicarbonate of soda and two tablespoons of dried chamomile (teabags will do) with four litres of water. Allow to steep for twenty-four hours and then apply the mixture to problem areas.

Fruit and veggies can be protected from mildew by spraying them with a mixture of one tablespoon of bicarbonate of soda, 2.5 tablespoons of horticultural oil, and four litres of water.

Weeds that grow between the cracks in your paths or

between pavers can be eliminated by first moistening the area. Next add a thick layer of bicarbonate of soda into the cracks to create a paste.

As a soil residue and repellent, bicarbonate of soda is also effective against slugs, and snails.

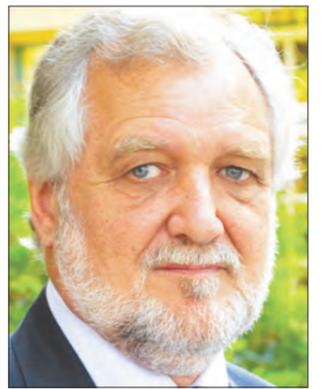
To test the pH of the soil, you'll need half a cup of bicarbonate of soda and half a cup of vinegar. Next, get two samples of soil and place them into separate containers. Pour vinegar into one of the samples, and if it bubbles, its pH is above seven or alkaline. In case it doesn't, add bicarbonate of soda with half a cup of water to the other sample, and if it bubbles now, it is acidic.

Sometimes decomposing compost can develop an intense odour – sprinkle just a bit of bicarbonate of soda on the top of the pile to rectify the problem.

What about the taste and look of your plants? Tomatoes are sweeter when grown in less acidic soil, so sprinkle a bit of bicarbonate of soda in the soil around them. And to stimulate blooming ornamental plants, water them monthly with a tonic made by dissolving one tablespoon of bicarbonate of soda in two litres water.

And what about the tools that you garden with? They can be cleaned and deodorised with bicarbonate of soda.

However, when dusting plants or spraying them, do so



• Alan Hayes

late in the afternoon once all bees and friendly insect activity has ceased.

Visit Alan on the Net – www.itssonatural.com

Trash to Treasure

One person's Trash is another's Treasure!

Turn your Trash into Cash by advertising it for sale in the "Times" classified pages. Phone the Donald office (5497 1222), or Birchip (5492 2735); email advertising@buloketimes.com

YOUR THREE-DAY TV GUIDE

Tuesday

ABC TV (2) 6.00 Morning Programs. 10.30 Optics. 11.00 Muster Dogs: Collies And Kelpies. 12.00 News. 1.00 Call The Midwife. Final. 2.00 Fake Or Fortune? 3.00 Nigella Bites. 3.25 Grand Designs. 4.15 Long Lost Family. 5.00 A Bite To Eat. 5.30 Antiques Roadshow. 6.30 Hard Quiz. 7.00 News. 7.30 7.30. 8.00 Foreign Correspondent. Return. 8.30 The Role Of A Lifetime. New. 9.20 Queerstralia. 10.20 The ABC Of. 10.50 News. 11.05 The Business. 11.25 Four Corners. 12.10 Late Programs.

ABC FAMILY (22) 6.00 Kids' Programs. 2.05 Paddington. 2.45 Beep And Mort. 3.00 Play School. 3.50 Andy's Dinosaur Adventures. 4.25 Nella The Princess Knight. 5.20 Kangaroo Beach. 6.05 Kiya And The Kimoja Heroes. 6.45 Ben And Holly. 7.00 The Deep. 7.35 Star Wars: Young Jedi Adventures. 7.50 The Investigators. 8.05 Operation Ouch! 8.40 Deadly 60. New. 9.10 Badgers: Their Secret World. 9.55 Merlin. 10.40 Mythbusters "There's Your Problem!". 11.05 Late Programs.

NITV (34) 6.00 Morning Programs. 12.00 Talking Language. 1.00 Warrior Spirit. 2.00 Kairakau. 2.30 The Cook Up. 3.00 Waabiny Time. 3.35 Spartacus. 4.05 Cities Of Gold. 4.35 Motown Magic. 5.00 Our Stories. 5.30 Indian Country Today News. 6.00 Bamay. 6.40 Arctic Secrets. 7.35 The Real Stories Of Basketball. 8.30 Ice Vikings. 9.20 Hunting Aotearoa. 10.20 MOVIE: Ka Po. (2022) 12.00 Kura. 12.30 It's Fine, I'm Fine. 1.00 The Porter. 1.55 On The Road. 5.00 Bamay.

SBS (3) 6.00 Morning Programs. 1.00 PBS NewsHour. 2.00 The Abyss: The Rise And Fall Of The Nazis. 3.00 The Weekly Football Wrap. 3.40 The Cook Up. 4.10 Lighthouses: Building The Impossible. 5.05 Jeopardy! 5.30 Letters And Numbers. 6.00 Mastermind Aust. 6.30 News. 7.30 Who Do You Think You Are? 8.35 Pretty Baby: Brooke Shields. Final. 9.50 The Artist's View: Guns 'N' Roses. 10.20 SBS News. 10.50 Prisoner. New. 11.55 Fargo. 12.45 Late Programs.

SBS VLND (31) 6.00 Morning Programs. 12.05 France 24 English News. 12.35 In My Own World. 1.30 VICE. 2.05 Dark Side Of The '90s. 3.00 Queer Sports. 3.55 BBC News At Ten. 4.25 ABC World News Tonight. 4.50 PBS News. 5.50 The Fast History Of. 6.15 The Machines That Built America. 7.05 Jeopardy! 7.35 8 Out Of 10 Cats. 8.30 Dark Side Of Reality TV. New. 10.20 Black Comedy In America. 12.10 How To Make It On OnlyFans. 1.05 The Cost Of Cyberbullying. #futauglyslut. 2.15 Late Programs.

SBS MOVIES (32) 6.00 Krull. Cont. (1983) 7.50 After The Storm. (2016, Japanese) 10.00 The Goldfinch. (2019) 12.40 Jump, Darling. (2020) 2.20 Poms. (2019) 4.00 Without A Clue. (1988) Michael Caine. 6.00 Fantastic Mr. Fox. (2009) George Clooney, Meryl Streep. 7.35 Linoleum. (2022) Jim Gaffigan. 9.30 Punch. (2022) Tim Roth. 11.20 Cop Secret. (2021) 1.15 Hive. (2021, Albanian) 2.45 Private Desert. (2021, Portuguese) 5.00 Without A Clue. (1988)

SEVEN (6) 6.00 Sunrise. 9.00 The Morning Show. 12.00 News At Noon. 1.00 TBA. 2.45 Surveillance Oz. 3.00 The Chase. 4.00 Seven News At 4. 5.00 The Chase Australia. 6.00 Seven News. 7.00 Home And Away. 7.30 Australian Idol. 9.20 The Hunting Party. 10.20 The Irrational. 12.20 Friday Night Lights. 2.30 Shopping. 4.00 NBC Today. 5.00 Sunrise Early News. 5.30 Sunrise.

7TWO (62) 6.00 TBA. 6.30 Escape To The Country. 7.30 Harry's Practice. 8.00 Million Dollar Minute. 9.00 Surf Patrol. 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 Harry's Practice. 4.00 Surf Patrol. 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 Air Crash Inv. 11.45 Bargain Hunt. 12.45 Inspector George Gently. 3.00 Late Programs.

7MATE (64) 6.00 Morning Programs. 7.30 Creek To Coast. 8.00 A Football Life. 9.00 America's Game. 10.00 Storage Wars. 10.30 American Resto. 11.00 American Pickers. 12.00 Pawn Stars. 1.00 Outback Opal Hunters. 2.00 Adventure Gold Diggers. 3.00 Billy The Extreminator. 3.30 Counting Cars. 4.30 Storage Wars. 5.00 American Resto. 5.30 American Pickers. 6.30 Pawn Stars. 7.30 Outback Truckers. 9.30 Outback Truckers: Best Of. 10.30 Ice Road Truckers. 11.30 Late Programs.

NINE (8) 6.00 Today. 9.00 Today Extra. 11.30 9News Morning. 12.00 Married At First Sight. 1.30 Explore TV. 2.00 Pointless. 3.00 Tipping Point. 4.00 9News Afternoon. 4.30 Tipping Point Australia. 5.30 News. 6.00 9News. 7.00 ACA. 7.30 Married At First Sight. 9.00 Madam. 10.20 9News Late. 10.50 My Feet Are Killing Me. 11.40 The Equalizer. 12.35 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 Today Early News. 5.30 Today.

9GEM (81) 6.00 Morning Programs. 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. Final. 1.50 Invictus Games. 2025 Vancouver Whistler. Day 8. Highlights. 2.50 Antiques Roadshow. 3.20 MOVIE: The Story Of Gilbert And Sullivan. (1953) 5.30 Our Yorkshire Farm. 6.30 Antiques Roadshow. 7.30 New Tricks. 8.40 Shakespeare And Hathaway. 9.40 Agatha Christie's Marple. 11.40 Late Programs.

9GO! (82) 6.00 Morning Programs. 11.30 Bakugan. 12.00 Motor Racing. ABB FIA Formula E World Championship. Round 3. Race 1. Highlights. 1.00 Bewitched. 1.30 I Dream Of Jeannie. 2.00 The Golden Girls. 2.30 The Nanny. 3.00 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: Mad Max. (1979) Mel Gibson. 10.30 Seinfeld. 11.30 Late Programs.

TEN (5) 6.00 Drew Barrymore. 7.00 Neighbours. 7.30 Farm To Fork. 8.00 Bold. 8.30 Deal Or No Deal. 9.00 Lingo. 10.00 Judge Judy. 10.30 Australian Survivor. 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 Australian Survivor. 9.00 NCIS. 10.00 FBI: Most Wanted. 11.00 News. 11.25 The Project. 12.30 Stephen Colbert. 1.30 Shopping. 4.30 CBS Morning.

10 BOLD (53) 6.00 Shopping. 8.00 Everyday Gourmet With Justine Schofield. 8.30 Jake And The Fatman. 9.30 Diagnosis Murder. 11.30 JAG. 1.30 Charmed. 2.30 Jake And The Fatman. 3.30 Diagnosis Murder. 5.30 JAG. 7.30 NCIS. 8.30 Bull. 12.15 Shopping. 2.15 Diagnosis Murder. 4.05 JAG.

10 PEACH (52) 6.00 Morning Programs. 8.30 Ent. Tonight. 9.00 Neighbours. 9.30 Bold. 10.00 Family Feud. 10.30 Drew Barrymore. 11.30 Deal Or No Deal. 12.00 Stephen Colbert. 1.00 The Neighborhood. 1.30 King Of Queens. 2.00 Becker. 2.30 Frasier. 3.30 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 Frasier. 11.30 Late Programs.

ABC TV (2) 6.00 Morning Programs. 10.00 Four Corners. 11.00 Antiques Roadshow. 12.00 News. 12.30 Press Club. 1.35 Media Watch. 1.55 Fake Or Fortune? 3.00 Nigella Bites. 3.25 Grand Designs. 4.10 Long Lost Family. 5.00 A Bite To Eat. 5.30 Antiques Roadshow. 6.30 Hard Quiz. 7.00 News. 7.30 7.30. 8.00 Hard Quiz. 8.30 Optics. 9.05 Guy Montgomery's Guy Mont Spelling Bee (NZ) 9.50 Planet America. 10.20 Spicks And Specks. 10.50 News. 11.05 The Business. 11.20 Aftertaste. 11.50 Late Programs.

ABC FAMILY (22) 6.00 Kids' Programs. 12.35 Teletubbies. 1.15 Octonauts. 1.40 Ben And Holly. 2.05 Paddington. 2.45 Beep And Mort. 3.00 Play School. 3.50 Andy's Dinosaur Adventures. 4.25 Nella The Princess Knight. 5.20 Kangaroo Beach. 6.05 Kiya And The Kimoja Heroes. 6.45 Ben And Holly. 7.00 The Deep. 7.35 Star Wars: Young Jedi Adventures. 7.50 Little Lunch. 8.05 Operation Ouch! 8.40 Doctor Who. 10.05 Merlin. 10.50 Mythbusters "There's Your Problem!". 11.15 Late Programs.

NITV (34) 6.00 Morning Programs. 1.30 Inferno Without Borders. 2.00 Kairakau. 2.30 The Cook Up. 3.00 Waabiny Time. 3.35 Spartacus. 4.05 Mysterious Cities Of Gold. 4.35 Motown Magic. 5.00 Our Stories. 5.30 Living Black. 6.00 Bamay. 6.40 Great Blue Wild. 7.30 Great Australian Walks. 8.30 Island Echoes. 9.00 MOVIE: One Flew Over The Cuckoo's Nest. (1975) 11.20 R.I.P. T-Shirts. 12.00 Kura. 12.30 It's Fine, I'm Fine. 1.00 The Porter. 2.00 On The Road. 3.00 Late Programs.

SBS (3) 6.00 Morning Programs. 1.00 PBS NewsHour. 2.00 The Abyss: The Rise And Fall Of The Nazis. 3.00 Where Are You Really From? 3.40 The Cook Up. 4.10 Lighthouses: Building The Impossible. 5.05 Jeopardy! 5.30 Letters And Numbers. 6.00 Mastermind Aust. 6.30 News. 7.30 Lord Lucan. 8.30 Wonders Of The Sun With Dara O Briain. Final. 9.25 Miniseries: Playing Nice. Final. 10.25 SBS News. 10.55 Pagan Peak. 11.45 Rogue Heroes. Final. 12.50 Late Programs.

SBS VLND (31) 6.00 Morning Programs. 12.05 France 24 English News. 12.35 Hudson & Rex. 2.15 Unknown Amazon. 3.20 The Weekly Football Wrap. 3.50 BBC News At Ten. 4.20 ABC World News Tonight. 4.50 PBS News. 5.50 The Fast History Of. 6.15 The Machines That Built America. 7.05 Jeopardy! 7.35 8 Out Of 10 Cats. 8.30 MOVIE: Interview With The Vampire. (1994) Tom Cruise, Brad Pitt. 10.45 MOVIE: The Vault. (2021) 12.55 Letterkenny. 2.20 Late Programs.

SBS MOVIES (32) 6.00 Without A Clue. Cont. (1988) 7.30 Minari. (2020, Korean) 9.10 3 Days In Quiberon. (2018, French) 11.20 My Zoe. (2019) 1.15 After The Storm. (2016, Japanese) 3.25 Krull. (1983) 5.40 Princess Caraboo. (1994) Phoebe Cates. 7.30 The Big Chill. (1983) William Hurt, Tom Berenger. 9.30 Oskars Kleid. (2022, German) Florian David Fitz. Lauri. 11.25 Swan Song. (2021) 1.25 From The Vine. (2019) 3.10 Punch. (2022) 5.00 Magnetic Fields. (2021, Greek)

SEVEN (6) 6.00 Sunrise. 9.00 The Morning Show. 12.00 News At Noon. 1.00 TBA. 3.00 The Chase. 4.00 News. 5.00 The Chase Australia. 6.00 Seven News. 7.00 Home And Away. 7.30 The 1% Club UK. 8.30 Ludwig. 9.45 Breathtaking. 10.50 The Suspects: True Australian Thrillers. 11.50 Autopsy USA. 12.50 Covert Affairs. 2.00 Shopping. 4.00 NBC Today. 5.00 Sunrise Early News. 5.30 Sunrise.

7TWO (62) 6.00 TBA. 6.30 Escape To The Country. 7.30 Harry's Practice. 8.00 Million Dollar Minute. 9.00 Surf Patrol. 9.30 NBC Today. 12.00 Better Homes. 1.00 Escape To The Country. 2.00 Weekend. 2.30 Air Crash Inv. 3.30 Harry's Practice. 4.00 Surf Patrol. 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 The Inspector Lynley Mysteries. 3.00 Late Programs.

7MATE (64) 6.00 Morning Programs. 7.30 Creek To Coast. 8.00 A Football Life. 9.00 America's Game. 10.00 Storage Wars. 10.30 American Resto. 11.00 American Pickers. 12.00 Pawn Stars. 1.00 Outback Truckers. 2.00 Billy The Extreminator. 3.30 Counting Cars. 4.30 Storage Wars. 5.00 American Resto. 5.30 American Pickers. 6.30 Pawn Stars. 7.30 Highway Patrol. 8.30 The Force: BTL. 9.30 World's Wildest Police Videos. 10.30 World's Scariest Police Chases. 11.30 Late Programs.

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

9GEM (81) 6.00 Danger Man. 7.00 Creffo. 7.30 Skippy. 8.00 TV Shop. 10.30 Pointless. 11.30 My Favorite Martian. 12.00 Days Of Our Lives. 1.50 New Tricks. 3.00 Antiques Roadshow. 3.30 MOVIE: Billy Liar. (1963) 5.30 Our Yorkshire Farm. 6.30 Antiques Roadshow. 7.30 To The Manor Born. 8.30 Midsomer Murders. 10.30 The Closer. 11.30 The Real Murders Of Orange County. 12.30 Antiques Roadshow. 1.00 Creffo. 1.30 MOVIE: Billy Liar. (1963) 3.30 Late Programs.

9GO! (82) 6.00 Morning Programs. 11.30 Bakugan. 12.00 Motor Racing. ABB FIA Formula E World Championship. Round 4. Race 2. Highlights. 1.00 Bewitched. 1.30 I Dream Of Jeannie. 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: RoboCop 2. (1990) Peter Weller. 10.45 Seinfeld. 11.45 Late Programs.

TEN (5) 6.00 Drew Barrymore. 7.00 Neighbours. 7.30 Farm To Fork. 8.00 Bold. 8.30 Deal Or No Deal. 9.00 Lingo. 10.00 Judge Judy. 10.30 Australian Survivor. 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 Australian Survivor. 9.00 Elsbeth. 10.00 NCIS: Hawaii. 10.55 News. 11.20 The Project. 12.25 Stephen Colbert. 1.30 Shopping. 4.30 CBS Morning.

10 BOLD (53) 6.00 Shopping. 8.00 NBL Slam. 8.30 Jake And The Fatman. 9.30 Diagnosis Murder. 11.30 JAG. 1.30 Charmed. 2.30 Jake And The Fatman. 3.30 Diagnosis Murder. 5.30 JAG. 7.30 Elsbeth. 8.30 NCIS. 10.30 The Weekly Kick-Off. 11.00 FBI. 11.55 Bull. 12.50 Shopping. 2.20 Diagnosis Murder. 4.10 JAG.

10 PEACH (52) 6.00 Morning Programs. 8.30 Ent. Tonight. 9.00 Neighbours. 9.30 Bold. 10.00 Family Feud. 10.30 Drew Barrymore. 11.30 Deal Or No Deal. 12.00 Stephen Colbert. 1.00 The Neighborhood. 1.30 King Of Queens. 2.00 Becker. 2.30 Frasier. 3.30 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 Frasier. 10.30 The Neighborhood. 11.00 Becker. 11.30 Late Programs.

Thursday

ABC TV (2) 6.00 Morning Programs. 10.00 Foreign Correspondent. 10.30 Back Roads. 11.10 The Role Of A Lifetime. 12.00 News. 1.00 The Newsreader. 2.00 Fake Or Fortune? 3.00 Nigella Bites. 3.25 Grand Designs. 4.15 Long Lost Family. 5.00 A Bite To Eat. 5.30 Antiques Roadshow. 6.30 Hard Quiz. 7.00 News. 7.30 7.30. 8.30 Sue Perkins' Big Adventure. 9.20 Grand Designs. Final. 10.10 The Role Of A Lifetime. 10.55 News. 11.10 The Business. 11.30 Late Programs.

ABC FAMILY (22) 6.00 Kids' Programs. 12.00 Fizzy And Suds. 12.15 Mini Kids. 12.35 Teletubbies. 1.15 Octonauts. 1.40 Ben And Holly. 2.05 Paddington. 2.45 Beep And Mort. 3.00 Play School. 3.50 Andy's Dinosaur Adventures. 4.25 Nella The Princess Knight. 5.20 Kangaroo Beach. 6.05 Kiya And The Kimoja Heroes. 6.45 Ben And Holly. 7.00 The Deep. 7.35 Star Wars: Young Jedi Adventures. 8.00 Operation Ouch! 8.35 Secrets Of The Zoo. 9.20 Chopped Jr. 10.10 Merlin. 10.55 Late Programs.

NITV (34) 6.00 Morning Programs. 2.00 Kairakau. 2.30 The Cook Up. 3.00 Waabiny Time. 3.35 Spartacus. 4.05 Mysterious Cities Of Gold. 4.35 Motown Magic. 5.00 Our Stories. 5.30 The 77 Percent. 6.00 Bamay. 6.40 Great Blue Wild. 7.30 Going Places. 8.30 The Green Veil. 9.30 MOVIE: Under The Cherry Moon. (1986) 11.45 Green Bush. 11.45 Songlines On Screen. 12.00 Kura. 12.30 It's Fine, I'm Fine. 1.00 The Porter. 2.00 NITV On The Road: Laura Festival. 3.00 Late Programs.

SBS (3) 6.00 Morning Programs. 12.30 ABC World News Tonight. 1.00 PBS News. 2.00 The Abyss: The Rise And Fall Of The Nazis. 3.00 Where Are You Really From? 3.40 The Cook Up. 4.10 Secrets Of Royal Gardens. 5.05 Jeopardy! 5.30 Letters And Numbers. 6.00 Mastermind Aust. 6.30 News. 7.30 Finding Your Roots. 8.30 Scotland's Pooshest Train: Alan Cumming. 9.30 MOVIE: Boiling Point. (2021) Stephen Graham. 11.15 SBS News. 11.45 Golden Boy. 12.35 The Allegation. 1.50 Late Programs.

SBS VLND (31) 6.00 Morning Programs. 9.30 BBC News At Six. 10.00 Front Up. 12.00 France 24 English News. 12.30 Patriot Brains. 2.20 Cowboy Kings Of Crypto. 2.50 Insight. 3.50 BBC News At Ten. 4.20 ABC World News Tonight. 4.45 PBS News. 5.45 The Fast History Of. 6.05 Living Next Door To Putin. 7.05 Jeopardy! 7.35 8 Out Of 10 Cats. 8.30 TWA Flight 800. 9.20 The Flight Attendant Murders. 10.15 Homicide. 1.00 Criminal Planet. 2.50 NHK World English News. 5.00 Al Jazeera.

SBS MOVIES (32) 6.00 Magnetic Fields. Cont. (2021, Greek) 6.35 The Extraordinary Journey Of The Fakir. (2018) 8.25 Fantastic Mr. Fox. (2009) 10.00 Linoleum. (2022) 11.55 Arab Blues. (2019, Arabic) 1.30 3 Days In Quiberon. (2018, French) 3.40 Minari. (2020, Korean) 5.50 Bride And Prejudice. (2004) 7.55 But I'm A Cheerleader. (1999) Natasha Lyonne. 9.30 Blue Jean. (2022) Rosy McEwen. 11.20 Supernova. (2020) 1.05 Oskars Kleid. (2022, German) 3.00 Late Programs.

SEVEN (6) 6.00 Sunrise. 9.00 The Morning Show. 12.00 News At Noon. 1.00 MOVIE: Bad Romance: The Vicky White Story. (2023) Wendi McLendon-Covey. 3.00 The Chase. 4.00 News. 5.00 The Chase Australia. 6.00 Seven News. 7.00 Home And Away. 7.30 MOVIE: Mamma Mia! (2008) 8.30 Billy The Extreminator. 3.30 Counting Cars. 4.30 Storage Wars. 5.00 American Resto. 5.30 Travel Oz. 2.00 Shopping. 4.00 NBC Today. 5.00 Sunrise Early News. 5.30 Sunrise.

7TWO (62) 6.00 TBA. 6.30 Escape To The Country. 7.30 Harry's Practice. 8.00 Million Dollar Minute. 9.00 Surf Patrol. 9.30 NBC Today. 12.00 Better Homes. 1.00 Escape To The Country. 2.00 South Aussie With Costi. 2.30 Auction Squad. 3.30 Harry's Practice. 4.00 Surf Patrol. 4.30 Better Homes. 5.30 Escape To The Country. 6.30 Bargain Hunt. 7.30 Father Brown. 8.30 Murdoch Mysteries. Return. 11.30 Father Brown. 12.30 Bargain Hunt. 1.30 Auction Squad. 2.30 Late Programs.

7MATE (64) 6.00 Hook. Line And Sinker. 7.00 Step Outside. 7.30 Creek To Coast. 8.00 A Football Life. 9.00 America's Game. 10.00 Storage Wars. 10.30 American Resto. 11.00 American Pickers. 12.00 Pawn Stars. 1.00 Highway Patrol. 2.00 The Force: BTL. 3.00 Billy The Extreminator. 3.30 Counting Cars. 4.30 Storage Wars. 5.00 American Resto. 5.30 American Pickers. 6.30 Pawn Stars. 7.30 World's Wildest Police Videos. 10.30 World's Scariest Police Chases. 11.30 Late Programs.

NINE (8) 6.00 Today. 9.00 Today Extra. 11.30 9News Morning. 12.00 Married At First Sight. 1.30 Mr Mayor. 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 RBT. 8.00 Emergency. 9.30 A+E After Dark. 10.30 9News Late. 11.00 Resident Alien. 11.50 Tipping Point. 12.40 Pointless. 1.30 TV Shop. 2.30 Global Shop. 3.00 TV Shop. 4.00 Believer's Voice Of Victory. 4.30 ACA. 5.00 Today Early News. 5.30 Today.

9GEM (81) 6.00 Danger Man. 7.00 Creffo. 7.30 Skippy. 8.00 TV Shop. 10.30 Pointless. 11.30 My Favorite Martian. 12.00 Days Of Our Lives. 1.50 New Tricks. 3.00 Antiques Roadshow. 3.30 MOVIE: Up The Front. (1972) 5.30 Our Yorkshire Farm. 6.30 Antiques Roadshow. 7.30 Keeping Up Appearances. 8.40 Poirot. 10.40 Dalgliesh. 11.40 Only Fools And Horses. 12.20 Antiques Roadshow. 1.00 Creffo. 1.30 MOVIE: Up The Front. (1972) 3.30 Danger Man. 4.30 My Favorite Martian. 5.00 Our Yorkshire Farm.

9GO! (82) 6.00 Morning Programs. 9.30 Yu-Gi-Oh! Sevens. 10.00 Ninjago. 10.30 Pokémon Horizons: The Series. 11.00 Transformers Bumblebee: Cyberverse Adventures. 11.30 Bakugan. 12.00 Gossip Girl. 2.00 The Golden Girls. 2.30 The Nanny. 3.30 Seinfeld. 4.30 The Addams Family. 5.00 Bewitched. 5.30 I Dream Of Jeannie. 6.00 The Golden Girls. 6.30 The Nanny. 7.30 Seinfeld. 8.30 MOVIE: The Meg. (2018) Jason Statham. 10.40 Seinfeld. 11.40 Late Programs.

TEN (5) 6.00 Drew Barrymore. 7.00 Neighbours. 7.30 Farm To Fork. 8.00 Bold. 8.30 Deal Or No Deal. 9.00 Lingo. 10.00 Judge Judy. 10.30 Australian Survivor. 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 Gogglebox Aust. Return. 8.30 The King Of Queens. 9.40 Law & Order: SVU. 10.40 News. 11.05 The Project. 12.05 Stephen Colbert. 1.00 Shopping. 4.30 CBS Morning.



• Dr Grant Hollaway has over 30 years' experience in plant pathology, and has specialised in the study of root and foliar diseases of cereals in the Victorian Wimmera and Mallee.

BCG's Trials Review Day: Proactive Decision Making to Safeguard Crop Health

With growing concerns around fungicide resistance and rising input costs, Astute Ag Senior Consultant Dr Grant Hollaway will provide growers with the latest research-backed strategies to manage disease while maximising profitability at BCG's members'-only Trials Review Day on Friday 21 February.

Disease impact varies by season and effective control requires a long-term strategy. Dr Hollaway will address variety selection and how growers can adapt their management strategies to reduce reliance on chemical controls.

"Variety selection plays a huge role in reducing disease risk and limiting reliance on fungicides," Dr Hollaway explains. "Fungicide resistance is becoming a bigger issue, which means varieties will have to do more of the work. It's important for farmers to assess their variety mix and talk to seed distributors about finding the right balance between yield potential and disease resistance."

Dr. Hollaway encourages farmers to be proactive in their decision making to safeguard crop health and farm profitability.

"Rather than making deci-

sions based solely on last year's trials, growers should consider multi-year research. Some seasons demand aggressive disease control, while in others, disease impact is minimal. The key is being responsive to the conditions each season brings."

Dry conditions throughout much of the 2024 cropping season and a dry summer has seen a reduced "green bridge", but Dr Hollaway recommends farmers don't become complacent in their approach to disease management: "History has shown that disease management needs to be flexible and match conditions in each season."

Dr Hollaway's presentation will deliver practical takeaways to help farmers make informed decisions this season, including:

- How variety selection can reduce the need for fungicide intervention.



- Economic considerations of fungicide use – when it's worth the investment, and when costs can be reduced.

- Lessons from past seasons, including the role of in-crop rainfall and the "green bridge" in influencing disease pressure.

BCG Trials Review Day is an exclusive members-only event, providing attendees with research-backed insights to support on-farm decision-making. The event will bring together industry experts, researchers, and growers to discuss the latest trial results and their implications for the 2025 growing season. Become a BCG member today and register your attendance at bcg.org.au or call (03) 5492 2787.

Moyston Water Workshops

Agriculture Victoria in conjunction with a local farmer are running a 2-day water workshop at Moyston in Western Victoria on March 18 and 25.

The 2-day workshop will cover a broad range of topics from siting and construction of farm dams, planning and designing a water reticulation system, preparing a water plan and the more practical aspects of pipeline installation and construction.

Agriculture Victoria Land Management Extension Officer, Clem Sturmfels said the workshop is suitable for people new to farming as well as those with plenty of farming experience.

"Whether you are looking at your water options, plan-

ning to build a new dam or have signed up for the new East Grampians Rural pipeline this workshop is for you.

"The workshop will commence at 10 a.m. and run until about 3 p.m. on both days.

"Each day will start with presentations and activities in the Moyston Recreation Reserve rooms followed by a farm visit after lunch," he said.

Mr Sturmfels said a highlight of the workshop will be a presentation by local farmer Anthony Pola who, with his wife Jane and parents John

and Karyn, run a mixed farming enterprise about 10 km north of Moyston.

"Anthony will discuss their experiences in installing more than 5 km of piping, tanks and troughs across their farm.

"He will also touch on their experience in siting, designing and constructing a drought reserve dam," he said.

Register now for the workshops.

Further information on drought and dry seasonal conditions support available can be found online by calling 136 186.

Avian Influenza Detected at Euroa Poultry Farm

Agriculture Victoria has confirmed the presence of avian influenza at a poultry property in northern Victoria, which has now been placed into quarantine.

Diagnostic testing performed by the CSIRO Australian Centre for Disease Preparedness at Geelong confirmed high pathogenicity H7N8, which is different from the strains that impacted Victorian, New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory poultry farms during 2024, which have been eradicated. The strain detected is also different from the H5N1 avian influenza strain that is impacting the USA and other parts of the world.

Agriculture Victoria staff are on the ground to assist control, support the business and investigate further.

A control order under the Livestock Disease and Control Act 1994 is being established. This will include a restricted area extending approximately 5km around the impacted property and a control area in the eastern portion of the Strathbogie Shire to prevent movements that could spread the virus.

Victoria's Acting Chief Veterinarian Cameron Bell praised the poultry business for alerting Agriculture Victoria as soon as they suspected the presence of disease in their flock.

"Avian influenza is commonly spread by wild birds, and unfortunately, despite the business having excellent biosecurity controls in place, poultry have been infected.

"The business has acted quickly to identify the infection within the flock and are working closely with Agriculture Victoria officers to contain the outbreak," Dr Bell said.

Maintain Ground Cover to Protect Soils

(Clem Sturmfels, Agriculture Victoria, Land Management Extension Officer)

Isolated dust storms recently are a reminder of how fragile some of our soils are.

They are also a good reminder there is still time to prevent this damage by destocking more vulnerable areas of the farm. While dust storms contain mostly mineral materials, they also contain significant quantities of organic matter, one of the most valuable components of our soils.

Leaving stock in a paddock for an extra couple of weeks to make use of remaining water supplies can be all it takes to expose the paddock to the risk of wind erosion.



Avian influenza is a viral disease of birds found globally. Virus strains are described as low pathogenicity (LPAI) or high pathogenicity (HPAI).

While cases among humans in direct contact with animals infected with highly pathogenic avian influenza viruses are possible, the current risk to the public remains low.

Every producer should have an on-farm biosecurity plan and know the signs of diseases that could affect their animals.

All poultry and bird owners across Victoria are reminded to follow best biosecurity practices such as keeping poultry sheds, yards,

aviaries and equipment clean, and restricting contact between poultry and wild birds.

Bird owners should also ensure their footwear is clean, always wash hands before and after handling birds or eggs and quarantine new birds before integrating with existing ones.

Consumers should not be concerned about eggs and poultry products from the supermarkets, they do not pose a risk and are safe to consume.

Poultry farmers, backyard flock and bird owners are urged to report any cases of unexplained bird deaths to the 24-hour Emergency Animal Disease Hotline on 1800 675 888 or to your local vet.

What's On

GRDC Grains Research Updates

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: Tuesday, February 25, 2025 9 a.m. to Wednesday February 26, 2025, 4 p.m.

Where: Ulumbarra Theatre, Gaol Road, Bendigo
To register: Visit the GRDC events page <https://grdc.com.au/events/list/2025/02/grdc-grains-research-update-skipton>

Grain growers will gather in Skipton later this month to discover the latest grains research and development outcomes that offer the potential for positive impact on-farm.

Guest speakers include Helen Suter (University of Melbourne) who will provide a refresher on nitrogen cycling in paddock and discuss how enhanced efficiency fertilisers fit into the system.

When: Thursday, February 27, 2025
Where: Skipton Golf and Bowls Club.
To register: Visit the GRDC events page at: <https://grdc.com.au/events/list/2025/02/grdc-grains-research-update-bendigo>

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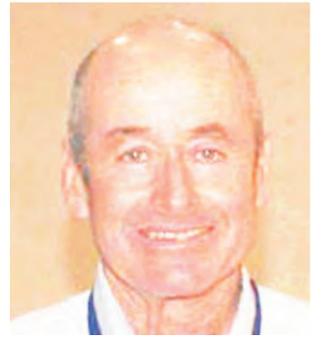
A Fortress for the Storms of Life

"The Lord is my rock, my fortress, and my deliverer, my God, my rock in whom I take refuge, my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold" Psalm 18:2



I observed a long-necked turtle walking slowly across the road in front of me.

His neck was stretched out and his pace was slow, but as soon as he detected my presence, the neck and head and legs and feet were immediately drawn in under his large protective shell. The turtle felt safe and secure under that shell (some use the metaphor "fortress") providing shelter and protection for the turtle where ever it happens to be. What a privilege for the turtle to have its very own mobile and personal fortress!



• Bruce Stewart

Human beings also need a "fortress" in the journey of life. Very recently in 2025 we have been hearing about fires which have caused the loss of at least 28 lives and destroyed 1000+ properties in the Los Angeles region of the United States. Back in 1871 an even more destructive fire savaged the city of Chicago killing over 300 people and making over 100,000 homeless. Horatio G. Spafford, a 43 year old Chicago businessman had invested much of his money into downtown Chicago real estate and so lost a great deal due to the fire. Horatio and his wife Anna, for the next two years after the fire, assisted the homeless and grieving people get back on their feet. At the same time they were also grieving the loss of their four-year-old son, who died of scarlet fever shortly before the fire. They had four remaining daughters.

After two years the Spafford family were physically and emotionally exhausted and Horatio decided to take his family on a holiday to England. A last minute emergency forced him to delay. Not wanting to ruin the family holiday he persuaded his family to go as planned and he would follow later. The family embarked on a ship named the "Ville du Haure". Tragically, disaster struck this boat off Newfoundland in heavy fog, when it collided with an English sailing ship the "Loch Earn" and sank within 20 minutes. Horatio's wife, Anna, was able to cling to a piece of floating wreckage (one of 47 survivors of the 275 on board) but their four daughters, Maggie, Tanetta, Annie and Bessie, all perished. Horatio and his wife had now lost their 5 children and much property.

Nine days after farewelling his family, Spafford received a telegram from his wife only two words long, "Saved Alone". He boarded the next available ship to join his grieving wife. During that voyage the captain of the ship called him to the bridge. "A careful reckoning has been made" he said, "and I believe we are now passing the place where the 'Ville du Haure' sank". In the midst of terrible grief and sorrow Horatio experienced the hope and help that only his relationship with Jesus could provide. The Bible says, "The Lord is my Rock, my Fortress and my Deliverer; my God is my Rock, in whom I take refuge". (Psalm 18:2).

Horatio returned to his cabin and penned the lyrics of what has become a special song to millions of people over the years. The first verse being: "When peace like a river attendeth my way; When sorrows like sea billows roll; Whatever my lot, Thou has taught me to say, It is well, it is well with my soul". This song was sung at a funeral service I attended very recently.

The storms of life can hit us hard and we all need a hope and help and shelter in these times. The turtle has a fortress on his back which helps give him physical protection in dangerous situations and we humans can reach out to Jesus Christ. "He is our fortress in the day of trouble" (Nahum 1:7).

We are not designed to do life alone. We need each other and foundationally we need to keep "persevering with the journey set out before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith" (Hebrews 12:2). Jesus our Lord, is the ultimate source of hope and help, our fortress in the journey of life. Check Him out and see.

Bruce Stewart.



• The long-necked turtle is protected by a shell, which some people call a "fortress"!

Community Update Buloke.

New Resource Available: Tackling the Tough Topics

Tackling the Tough Topics – A Guide for Mental Health & Wellbeing Events in Farming Communities, developed by the National Centre for Farmer Health is a nationally recognised resource providing a practical framework to help communities plan effective, supportive, and safe mental health events, ensuring they meet local needs while safeguarding vulnerable individuals. It showcases the resilience and proactive efforts of our local communities in fostering mental health and wellbeing and features local Buloke-based organisations, including the Donald Scouts, Birchip Cropping Group and Buloke Shire Council.

The guide includes:

- 14 Key Planning Questions – A structured approach to help you organise meaningful events.
- Practical Templates – Tools to ensure smooth event delivery and positive outcomes.
- Case Studies & Best Practices – Insights from rural communities.
- Speaker Preparation & Support – Guidance on selecting and preparing guest speakers to align with your community's unique needs.

To access the guide, scan the QR code



Employment Opportunities with Buloke

Council is an equal opportunity employer. For more information on equal opportunity, call Human Resources on 1300 520 520.

You can find all current employment opportunities at www.buloke.vic.gov.au/employment

Applications can be lodged by:
Mail - PO Box 1, Wycheproof VIC 3527 or
Email - recruitment@buloke.vic.gov.au

Manager People and Culture - Wycheproof, Permanent (Full Time). Salary package in the range of \$130k - 146k (including novated leasing)

We are seeking a dynamic and experienced Manager People and Culture to join our team at Buloke Shire Council, with the role based at Wycheproof, Victoria. The ideal candidate will be responsible for overseeing a range of strategic and operational human resources and occupational health and safety (OHS) initiatives to ensure Council's ability to attract, retain, develop and manage its workforce in line with Council's corporate direction and State and Federal legislation.

Executive Officer - Wycheproof, Permanent (Full Time). \$115,977.00 - \$129,689.00 (+ statutory superannuation)

As the Executive Officer you will be responsible for leading the Executive Office team, with a focus on optimising administrative functions, enhancing communications, and driving initiatives to successful completion. You will also ensure effective meeting processes, support governance excellence, and foster strong stakeholder relationships.

Building Maintenance Officer - Permanent (Full Time). From \$34.54 per hour (+ statutory superannuation)

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

Open Spaces Maintenance Officer - Permanent (Full Time). From \$34.54 per hour (+ statutory superannuation)

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

Notice of an Application for a Planning Permit

The land affected by the application is located at **360 Broadway, Wycheproof VIC 3527.**

The application is for a permit for the Two-lot subdivision of land (re-subdivision).

The application reference number is **PA25003.**

You may view the application and supporting documents on the Buloke Shire Council Website <https://buloke.greenlightopm.com/planning> or by making contact with the office of the Responsible Authority, Buloke Shire Office, Wycheproof on 1300 520 520.

This can be done during office hours and is free of charge. Any person who may be affected by the granting of the permit may object or make other submissions to the Responsible Authority.

An objection must be made to the Responsible Authority in writing, include the objectors name and contact details, include reasons for the objection, and state how the objector would be affected. An online submission form is available at <https://www.buloke.vic.gov.au/planning-applications-on-exhibition>

The Responsible Authority will not decide on the application before: **6 March 2025.**

If you object to the application, the Responsible Authority will tell you it's decision.

Have your Say - Library Service Review

The Buloke Shire Library Services Review Survey is now open until 2 March 2025.

Community members are encouraged to share their experiences and ideas about our library services to ensure that they remain accessible, sustainable, and responsive to the changing needs of the community.

To complete the survey, visit www.buloke.vic.gov.au/buloke-shire-council-library-service-review or pick up a hard copy of the survey at the Buloke Community Libraries in Charlton, Birchip, Donald, Sea Lake and Wycheproof, the Wycheproof Customer Service Centre and from the Mobile Library Service.

A number of pop-up community consultations will also be held across the Buloke Shire from 24 - 28 February 2025 at the following locations and times:

Date	Location	Time	Address
Mon 24 February	Wycheproof	10am - 4pm	Wycheproof Resource Centre, 280 Broadway
Tue 25 February	Charlton	10am - 1pm 1.30pm - 4pm	Charlton Hall Supper Room, Armstrong St Charlton Neighbourhood House, 30 High St
Wed 26 February	Sea Lake	10am to 1pm 1.30pm to 4pm	Tyrrell College, 10 Sutcliffe St Sea Lake Foodworks, 65 Best St
Thu 27 February	Birchip	10am - 12pm 1pm - 3pm 3.30pm - 5.30pm	Birchip P-12 School, 45 Campbell St Sharp's Bakery, 47 Cummin Ave Birchip P-12 School, 45 Campbell St
Fri 28 February	Donald	10am - 4pm	Donald Hub, 70 Woods St

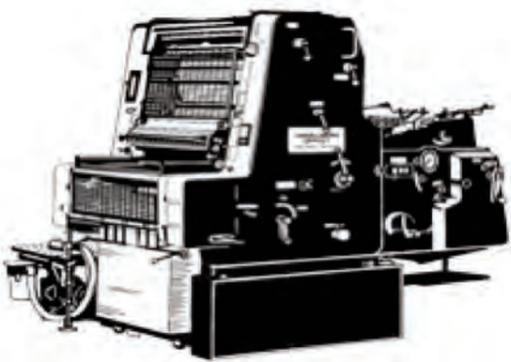
For more information about the Buloke Community Library Services Review, contact 1300 520 520 or email buloke@buloke.vic.gov.au



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Blast from the Past

(From the "Donald Times", February 3, 1925)

Month Historial Enquiries

February 3: A Pioneer Passes. Late Mr. Henry Goldsmith. The ranks of original pioneers are being rapidly thinned by the hand of death, and during the week-end two of the district's oldest identities were taken. Mr. Henry Goldsmith passed to the Great Beyond at his home "The Hutch", Wendouree Road, Ballarat at 5 a.m. on Sunday, the body being brought to Donald by motor hearse on Sunday evening. He was born at Gorey, County Wexford, Ireland, 76 years ago, coming to Australia by sailing ship in 1867, when 19 years of age. Coming to Banyenong 52 years ago, he was one of the first of our pioneers and accumulated a large interest in this district. He was a noted horse breeder, and demonstrated a keen interest in the works of the Donald Shire Council and the Donald Agricultural Society. He was a councillor for a period of ten or twelve years, and filled the office of president during that time. He was also president of the Agricultural Society. Retiring from public life he took a trip home to the Homeland, being accompanied by his lifelong friend and companion, Mr. A. Hepworth Sr., now of McCulloch Street, Donald. Returning sometime later, he decided to travel to Queensland. He went to the Condamine district opening up the country there and starting what is even now known as "Goldsmith's Group". For ten years he remained in Queensland, afterwards returning south and settling in a well-deserved retirement at Ballarat. He leaves a widow and

the following family: Lavenia (Mrs. F. Sands, Queensland), Alecia (Mrs. J. McEwen, Chirrup), Florrie (Mrs. D. Nicholls, Wycheproof), William Goldsmith (Banyenong), Annie, (Mrs. F. Gray, Queensland), Ivy (Mrs. W. Caldwell, Ballarat), Gladys (Mrs. J. Jones, Ballarat), Emily and Lilian (Ballarat), Mrs. A. Sands (deceased) and Oliver Goldsmith (deceased). The funeral took place yesterday at 7.30 p.m., leaving the residence of his son, Mr. W. Goldsmith, Banyenong, for the Corack East cemetery. A huge cortege, including forty motorcars, followed the remains to their final resting place. By the hand of Fate, the oldest friend of the deceased gentleman, Mr. A. Hepworth, was unable to follow his remains owing to the death of his mother-in-law Mrs. Elizabeth Kelly.

February 6: Wheat Trucked. Donald Figures for January. The month of January was an exceptionally busy one at the Donald station, a total of 62,000 bags being railed away. Six buying agencies brought wheat ranging from 7,000 to 19,000 bags. The number of trucks employed to shift this amount of wheat was 382 and the arrangements for transportation met general approval, being considered by all concerned as most satisfactory. On an average, sixteen trains per day passed through Donald conveying wheat to the seaboard.

February 10. Personal. Miss Maggie Pope has returned to Donald after spending a holiday at Frankston. Mr. W. McCulloch of

Watchem West, has sold his land to Messrs. Maurice and R. McCallum, and is leaving the district. Mr. C. E. Kirmasse, formerly schoolmaster at Donald, has, it is understood, been appointed to a suburban school. Mr. and Mrs. Percy Stakelum and family are holidaying at Elwood.

February 13: Record Land Prices. Record prices for the Gre Gre district land were secured at auction last week, when 139 acres of land near Gre Gre village, fronting the Avon River, were sold on account of the executors of A. McDonald, at £17/2/- per acre. Land on account of Misses McDonald was sold at £18/10/- per acre.

February 17: Williamson Convicted. Eighteen Months Imprisonment. At the Ballarat Court during the week, Geo. Williamson was charged with having at Donald, between 18th of August and the 11th of October 1923, being a clerk and servant of the Victorian Producers Co-operative Pty. Ltd., embezzled three sums of money viz.- £11, £4/6/6, and £4/15/-. Williamson had previously appeared before the Court at Donald, having been committed for trial at Ballarat. He was sentenced to eighteen months imprisonment on each of the three charges, sentences to be concurrent.

February 20: Cricket. Traynor's Lagoon defeats Cope Cope. In the match, Traynor's Lagoon v. Cope Cope, Hines and Edgoose put on a partnership of 52 for the first wicket for Cope Cope, but the rest of the team,

unable to do anything with the bowling of W. Tyson, the innings closing for 70. Traynor's Lagoon won comfortably. (Tyson took 5 for 8. Traynor's Lagoon made 221. Cope Cope employed 9 bowlers).

February 24: Duck Opening Accident. While returning from the duck opening at Lake Buloke on Monday afternoon, a Buick car, owned and driven by Cr. W. H. Bolden of Birchip, a brother of Mr. J. H. Bolden of Donald, and containing three other shooters - A. and W. Eyckens and Jack Bayles - capsized through the wheel collapsing. A. Eyckens, who was pinned underneath the car had two ribs fractured and received injuries to the back. Fortunately the road was up hill, and other members of the party, who suffered only minor abrasions and shock, were able to free themselves and render assistance.

February 27: Accident. While manoeuvring at the barrier at the commencement of the Donald Cup, H. Nichol, who was riding Don Tourie, had the misfortune to sustain a nasty kick on the shin from Prosima, a severe gash being inflicted. He kept his seat, however, and although riding under a severe handicap, piloted Don Tourie into third position. The injury, though painful, and necessitating medical attention, was not serious. (Prosimia won the Cup).



Wimmera-Mallee Cricket Scoreboard

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Round 12:

"A" Grade

Birchip d. St. Arnaud

BIRCHIP

H. McCredden, b L. Patching	11
C. Lee, c ? b J. Patching	6
M. Trollope, b J. Patching	6
W. Marks, c ? b L. Patching	0
R. Smith, b K. Torney	86
L. Randall, b J. McCartney	48
J. Paley, c N. Gorrie b H. Torney	0
J. Randall, b H. Torney	0
K. Hamilton, not out	16
C. Bennett, not out	17
Sundries	2
TOTAL (for 8 wickets)	192
Fall of wicket: 16, 24, 24, 24, 154, 157, 157, 159.	

Bowling: L. Patching 2/30 (8), J. Patching 2/32 (8), J. McCartney 1/37 (8), C. Torney 0/20 (4), M. Stones 0/19 (2), H. Torney 2/37 (7), K. Torney 1/17 (3).

ST. ARNAUD

C. Torney, b J. Randall	2
B. Williams, c W. Marks b L. Randall	0
M. D., run out H. McCredden, W. Marks	9
J. Patching, b J. Randall	5
L. Patching, b R. Smith	12
J. McCartney, c C. Lee b H. McCredden	24
N. Gorrie, b J. Paley	17
K. Torney, b K. Hamilton	16
M. Stones, c R. Smith b K. Hamilton	7
G. Gorrie, c H. McCredden b L. Randall	0
H. Torney, not out	0

Sundries	10
TOTAL (for 10 wickets)	102
Fall of wicket: 2, 2, 8, 21, 49, 74, 74, 101, 102, 102.	

Bowling: J. Randall 2/9 (6), L. Randall 2/9 (6), C. Lee 0/21 (5), R. Smith 1/23 (5), H. McCredden 1/17 (4), J. Paley 1/11 (4), C. Bennett 0/5 (2), K. Hamilton 2/4 (1.1).

Marnoo d. St. Mary's

MARNOO

J. Duxson, c L. Somers b N. Toscano	33
D. Lang, c N. Germano b B. Dennes	0
N. Baird, b N. Toscano	40
B. Cameron, not out	51
Fill-in, b B. Dennes	3
Jack McAllister, not out	40
Sundries	14
TOTAL (for 4 wickets)	181
Fall of wicket: 13, 56, 103, 115.	

Bowling: B. Dennes 2/13 (8), B. Watts 0/22 (3), L. Somers 0/35 (8), N. Toscano 2/34 (8), C. Schmidt 0/24 (8), N. Germano 0/28 (4), N. Priest 0/11 (1).

ST. MARY'S

C. Schmidt b C. Reading	16
N. Germano b C. Reading	4
B. Watts, c B. Cameron b D. Cameron	7
L. Somers, b C. Reading	20
D. Westerland, b C. Reading	4
N. Priest, c B. Cameron b Fill-in	10
B. Dennes b D. Lang	13
N. Toscano, b D. Lang	0
L. Westerland, not out	16
J. Evans, b D. Lang	0
C. Zanker, c&b D. Lang	8
Sundries	6
TOTAL (for 10 wickets)	104

Fall of wicket: 8, 25, 36, 52, 57, 75, 79, 79, 79, 104.	
Bowling: C. Reading 4/32 (8), D. Cameron 1/11 (4), T. Caldwell 0/28 (4), D. Lang 4/8 (4.5), Fill-in 1/24 (4).	

Donald-Jeffcott d. Southern Mallee

DONALD-JEFFCOTT

W. Noble, b L. Mitchell	7
C. Anderson, lbw L. Mitchell	14
D. Atkins, c ? b L. Mitchell	70
L. Jones, not out	74
J. Adams, not out	46
Sundries	28
TOTAL (for 3 wickets)	239
Fall of wicket: 24, 27, 136.	
Bowling: L. Mitchell 3/23 (8), J. Moore 0/37 (8), Fill-in 0/10 (1), Fill-in 0/52 (8), J. Cook 0/26 (7), S. Roberts 0/22 (3), C. Morris 0/44 (4), J. Kiem 0/17 (1).	

SOUTHERN MALLEE

L. Mitchell, b N. Atkins	4
Fill-in, lbw C. Anderson	19
J. Kiem, c J. Adams b C. Anderson	20
C. Morris, c N. Atkins b L. Rice	1
S. Smith, b J. Borden	4
P. Hallam, c W. Noble b J. Adams	12
J. Moore, b D. Atkins	2
Fill-in, not out	19
J. Cook, b D. Atkins	0
S. Roberts, c N. Atkins b C. Rice	3
Fill-in, not out	1
Sundries	9
TOTAL (for 9 wickets)	94
Fall of wicket: 4, 47, 48, 50, 64, 67, 67, 68, 87.	
Bowling: J. Adams 1/8 (7), D. Atkins 2/13 (8), N. Atkins 1/25 (7), L. Rice 2/19 (8), C. Anderson 2/22 (8), C. Rice 1/5 (2).	

"B" Grade

Watchem d. St. Mary's

WATCHEM

T. Colbert, b A. Keys	0
D. Slater, c ? b C. Hartnett	98
D. Tatarskyj, c H. Nixon b A. Keys	18
J. Woods, lbw H. Nixon	8
C. Boyle, c A. Keys b J. Hartnett	75
J. Borden, b C. Hartnett	0
R. Hogan, b G. Fernandez	14
S. Milne, not out	22
N. Dean, not out	4
Sundries	19
TOTAL (for 7 wickets)	258
Fall of wicket: 10, 68, 121, 183, 183, 227, 237.	
Bowling: A. Keys 2/9 (8), H. Nixon 1/40 (8), C. Hartnett 2/66 (8), S. Smith 0/68 (8), G. Fernandez 1/40 (4), J. Hartnett 1/26 (4).	

ST. MARY'S

K. Zanker, c J. Borden b C. Boyle	1
G. Fernandez, c D. Tatarskyj b C. Boyle	38
J. Thomas, c D. Tatarskyj b T. Colbert	1
S. Smith, b J. Borden	43
H. Nixon, b D. Tatarskyj	46
A. Keys, not out	23
C. Preston, b D. Tatarskyj	13
C. Hartnett, not out	4
Sundries	19
TOTAL (for 6 wickets)	188
Fall of wicket: 3, 9, 77, 119, 157, 183.	

Bowling: C. Boyle 2/34 (8), T. Colbert 1/34 (8), S. Lowry 0/39 (8), J. Borden 1/45 (8), D. Tatarskyj 2/11 (4), S. Milne 0/16 (3), R. Hogan 0/5 (1).

Donald-Jeffcott d. Southern Mallee

SOUTHERN MALLEE

M. Roberts, c&b N. Nanayakkara	19
D. Shannon, c T. Reekie b B. Griffiths	19
K. Bellinger, b B. Griffiths	1
D. Pulham, c ? b B. Griffiths	24
C. Castleman, c B. Griffiths b Nanayakkara	11
J. Vanderburg, run out	17
A. Decker, c K. Green b N. Nanayakkara	5
A. Madhu, st A. Bayles b N. Nanayakkara	8
F. Shannon, run out	2
C. Decker, c A. Tatchell b G. Pearse	2
N. Jones, not out	5
Sundries	13
TOTAL (for 10 wickets)	114
Bowling: T. Reekie 0/8 (5), S. Postlethwaite 0/13 (2), A. Tatchell 0/16 (6), B. Griffiths 3/16 (8), J. Needs 0/15 (4), G. Pearse 1/3 (3.1), C. Anderson 0/4 (2), N. Nanayakkara 4/30 (8), J. Tellefson 0/6 (1).	

DONALD-JEFFCOTT

J. Tellefson, c D. Shannon b C. Castleman	4
S. Postlethwaite, c D. Pulham b D. Shannon	2
A. Bayles, b C. Castleman	17
K. Green, c J. Vanderburg b D. Shannon	16
T. Reekie, not out	29
A. Tatchell, not out	44
Sundries	8
TOTAL (for 4 wickets)	118
Bowling: C. Castleman 2/36 (8), D. Shannon 2/26 (8), K. Bellinger 0/25 (4), A. Madhu 0/24 (3).	

Charlton d. Birchip by forfeit.

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

Cricket Leaders Hold Firm

With only one home-and-away round still to be played, Wimmera Mallee cricket's "A" grade leaders Donald-Jeffcott, Marnoo and Birchip Swans have inked in their finals places.

Candidates for fourth are St. Mary's, currently 19 points, and St. Arnaud, 15 points.

At Beulah on Saturday, Donald-Jeffcott elected to bat first, compiling an impressive 3/239 from its 40 overs. After a modest start, the visitors hit top form, with Daniel Atkins contributing 70, while Lachie Jones and Jett Adams remained not out, their scores being 74 and 48 respectively. All three wickets taken were claimed by the Giants' Luke Mitchell. After the break, Donald-Jeffcott bowlers took charge, all six of them sharing the spoils. Daniel Atkins, Luca Rice and captain Cooper Anderson took two each, while Jett Adams, Nick Atkins and Curtis Rice finished with one apiece, as the total reached 9/94 in 40 overs.

At Birchip, having sent the Swans in to bat, St. Arnaud claimed several early wickets. Mid-innings, however, the game was taken over by the home side, with the in-form Rylee Smith, 86, and Lachy Randall 48, sharing a productive 130-run partnership, taking the total to 8/192. St. Arnaud's Patching brothers, Lachlan 2/30, and Jacob 2/32, led the bowling attack, joined by Hayden Torney 2/37, Jayden McCartney 1/37, and Kynan Torney 1/17. In reply, the Saints had four double-figure scorers – Jayden McCartney 24, Ned Gorrie 17, Kynan Torney 16, and Lachy Patching 12, but the innings ran out at 102, from 33.1 overs.

St. Mary's hosted Marnoo at Anzac Park, where the visitors had no intentions of surrendering their high ladder position. Jimmy Duxson contributed 33, captain Nic Baird 40, Bryce Cameron 51 not out (with 4 fours and 3 sixes), and Jack McAllister 40 not out (that last unbeaten partnership being worth 112 runs). St.



• St Arnaud's Hayden Torney 2/37, Birchip batter Kobe Hamilton 16 not out and 2/4.

Mary's two wicket-takers were Brodie Dennes 2/13 (8), and Nick Toscano 2/34 (8). Five St. Mary's batters were then into double-figures – Leigh Somers 20, Colby Schmidt 18, Lincoln Westerland 16 not out, Brodie Dennes 13, and Nathan Priest 10, but with bowling honours going to Marnoo's Cooper Reading, 4/32 (8), and David Lang 4/8 (4.5), the final wicket fell at 104 in 24.5 overs.

"B" Grade

A solid start was given to Southern Mallee Giants at the Jeffcott ground in Donald, with openers Max Roberts and Dale Shannon scoring 19 each. Daven Pulham followed up with 24, and Jack Vandenburg 17, but the innings then fell away to a total of 114. Doing most damage for Donald-Jeffcott were Niluka Nanayakka 4/30 (8), and Brady Griffiths 3/16 (8),

while Glenn Pearce also claimed 1/3 (3.1). Away to a shaky start, Donald-Jeffcott recovered to register a winning tally of 4/118. After Andrew Bayles had scored 12, and Kalon Green 16, the reins were taken by Anthony Tatchell 44 not out, and Tom Reekie 29 not out, to clinch the victory. Giants' bowlers to share the wickets were Dale Shannon 2/26 (8), and Clint Castleman 2/36 (8).

The Watchem Panthers strengthened their grip on a finals place with victory in a high-scoring game against St. Mary's at Watchem. Opening the batting for the home side, Daniel Slater came agonisingly close to a century, with round 12's top score of 98, including 15 fours. Captain Connor Boyle added 75 (with 11 fours and 3 sixes), Sam Milne 22 not out, Daniel Tatarskyj 18, and Riley Hogan 14, taking the 40-overs



• The Giants' youngsters Colt Decker (above) and Ned Jones (below), had 'keeper Andrew Bayles on his toes. The other fieldman is Kalon Green.



total to 7/258. St. Mary's successful bowlers were Aiden Keys 2/9 (8), Chad Harnet 2/66 (8), Hugh Nixon 1/40 (8), Gary Fernandez 1/40 (4), and Jed Harnet 1/26 (4). St. Mary's then took up the chal-

lenge, reaching 8/188 before its 40 overs ran out. Leading the way were Hugh Nixon 46, Sean Smith 43, Gary Fernandez 38, Aiden Keys 23 not out, and Cooper Preston 13. Sharing the wickets for

Watchem were Connor Boyle 2/34 (8), Daniel Tatarskyj 2/11 (4), Ty Colbert 1/34 (8), and Jam Borden 1/45 (8).

In the final "B" grade game Birchip Swans forfeited to Charlton.



• Birchip batter Lachlan Randall 48 and 2/9. – Photo Amanda Casey.



• Keeping his eye on the ball is Donald-Jeffcott's Brady Griffiths who claimed 3/16 off his eight overs.



• Pauline Bragg, Jennifer Blainey, Lesley Whitling.

Birchip Mid-Week Bowls

On a hot, windy day last Thursday the Birchip ladies played the finals of the ladies Club Triples.

The bowling was very good, but at times the wind was the winner with bowls everywhere but near the Jack, but persistence pays off and all six ladies continually chal-

lenged themselves defying the wind and playing some excellent bowls. This was a very close game with nothing much between them, and eventually it was down to the last end.

The team of Jennifer Blainey, Pauline Bragg and Lesley Whitling defeated Moya Connelly, Ronda Cooper and Jackie Tierney by two shots: 13 to 11.

To the ladies playing events, either State Division Tyrrell or tournaments, good bowling and safe travels.

- "Off the Green"

St. Arnaud Stakes Its Claim

• Continued from page 16. Lloyd Goddard (s) 18 lost to Leigh Watkins, Chris Webb, Kevin Meade, John Needs (s) 25.

Andrea Tyler, Peter Duncan, John Prendergast, Kerryn Dyke (s) 30 d. Gary White, Steven Atkinson, Paul Mullins, Phil Elliott (s) 25.

Gary Shinnars, Craig Cheesman, Paul Micallef, Laurence Goodwin (s) 16 lost to Ben Medlyn, Graham Shaw, Neil Robinson, Arnold Bond (s) 27.

Champion of Champions

North Central Playing Area's premier individual bowls events, the men's and women's Champion of Champions singles, was decided at Wycheproof on Sunday, and congratulations go to the respective champions for 2024-'25, St. Arnaud's Steven Zsigmond (men's) and Wedderburn's Ruth Hall (women's). Results of preliminary rounds:

Women

Round 1: Lindy Morgan (Donald 26 d. Jeannie Grylls

(Wycheproof) 10, Ruth Hall (Wedderburn) 25 d. Heather Esmore (St. Arnaud Country Club) 22, Lynne Southwell (Charlton) 25 d. Marilyn Frank (Donald Golf) 13, Thelma Moresi (Boort) 25 d. Margaret McIntyre (St. Arnaud) 15.

Semi-finals: Ruth Hall 25 d. Lindy Morgan 21, Lynne Southwell 25 d. Thelma Moresi 19.

Final: Ruth Hall 25 d. Lynne Southwell 24.

Men

Round 1: Steven Zsigmond (St. Arnaud) 25 d. Norm Hollis (Donald) 5, Laurie Witham (Wedderburn) 25 d. Wayne Southwell (Charlton) 17, John Nevill (St. Arnaud Country Club) 26 d. Shayne Morris (Boort) 14, Bill Livingston (Donald Golf) d. Jason McKay (Wycheproof) 5.

Semi-finals: Steven Zsigmond 25 d. Laurie Witham 14, Bill Livingston 25 d. John Nevill 14.

Final: Steven Zsigmond 25 d. Bill Livingston 6.

Wimmera Mallee Cricket Ladders

"A" Grade

	P	W	L	D	Bye	Pts
Donald Jeffcott	14	12	1	0	0	41
Marnoo	13	9	3	0	0	31
Birchip	13	7	5	0	0	27
St Mary's	14	6	7	0	0	19
St. Arnaud	14	4	9	0	0	15
Southern Mallee.....	14	0	12	0	0	1

"B" Grade

	P	W	L	D	Bye	Pts
Donald Jeffcott	14	11	2	0	0	37
Charlton	14	10	3	0	0	35
Watchem	14	9	4	0	0	33
Southern Mallee	14	3	7	0	0	15
St. Mary's	14	3	8	0	0	15
Birchip	14	0	8	0	0	3

Donald Bowls Mixed Pairs

Being out of the finals, Donald played its club mixed pairs on a cool summer Saturday.

It was on a well prepared green but with a gusty cross wind all day making for tricky bowling conditions.

The winners were Trevor Farrer with Beryl Milne. Congratulations to Hunter

Wingfield, winning the Region State Triples with Steve Zigmund and Tony Morland.

Also To Norm Hollis who drew Ziggy and went down to him at the Region Championships at Wyche-

proof Sunday, and Ziggy went on to win the Region Men's Championship. Lindy Morgan also got through to the second round by defeating

Ginnie Grylls and went down to Ruth Hall, who also won the Ladies Region Championship.

- "Tiger in the Ditch"



• Beryl Milne and Trevor Farrer.



• Never too young for lawn bowls. Brothers Hunter Wingfield, 17, and Laikyn Holland, 11, both played in Saturday's pairs Championship

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St. Arnaud Stakes Its Claim

North Central Playing Area will have a new pennant bowls champion after reigning title holder, Wedderburn, was eliminated from the 2024-'25 premiership race in dramatic fashion during Saturday's semi-finals, played at St. Arnaud Country Club.

St. Arnaud has won through to the grand final after out bowling Donald Golf in very challenging conditions, while Wycheproof secured a berth in next Saturday's preliminary final after securing a last gasp victory over Wedderburn.

In Division 2, defending title holder, Wycheproof, will defend its crown after out bowling Wedderburn, which will meet St. Arnaud Country Club in the preliminary final, after the latter eliminated cross-town rival, St. Arnaud.

In Division 1, St. Arnaud got the jump on opponent Donald Golf in the second semi-final when Steve Zsigmond's rink pickup up five shots on the first end, including no less than three "touchers" in the ditch alongside kitty, as well as having two bowls within 30 centimetres of the ditch.

From that point, Golf was chasing St. Arnaud's tail, and despite being able to limit the damage on the scoreboard, trailed by 13 shots overall when the final bowl was delivered.

Steve Zsigmond's combination of Thomas Amos (lead), Greg McNally and Glendon Hancock eventually defeated Daniel Pettifer's combination of Bill Livingston (l), Shane O'Shea and Adrian Humphreys by 6 shots, after leading by as many as 12 for much of the afternoon.

Ashley Dyke, with Darren Shephard (l), Colin Marchment and Phil McRae, had to work hard for their 2-shot win over Robert Reseigh's combo of Marilyn Frank (l), George Geddes and Robert Adams, "Ruby" filling in admirably for the indisposed Geoff Rigby, a later withdrawal from the selected line-up.

In a clash that ebbed and flowed, St. Arnaud's Terry McSwain, together with lead Tony Marland, Maurie Wood and Allan Welsh, accounted for Peter Hibberd's team of Geoff Stopps (l), Belinda Murray and Stewart Hollis by 5 shots.

Barnstorming Finish

The first semi-final clash between Wedderburn and Wycheproof was much closer, with seldom more than a shot or three the difference throughout, and the result in the balance right up to the final bowl.

Both Wycheproof and Wedderburn won a rink each by considerable margins, Aaron Mead's line-up of Eric Rayes (l), Brett MacDonald and Dale Groves outscoring Wedderburn's Laurie Witham, with Dale Stephenson (l), Amy Roberts and Bob Montebello by 17 shots, while Wedderburn's Damien Mason,



• Wedderburn bowler Dale Stephenson delivers his bowl. Watching on closely are his teammates and the opposing Wycheproof team. The overall result was decided on the last bowl of the day.

with Rob Guelfo (l), Bruce Hargreaves and Andrew Caserta finished 14 shots in front of Wyche.'s Grant Allan, who teamed with Peter Coles (l), Allan Coatsworth and Paul Wellington.

With one end to play, between Wedderburn's Alan Jackson team of Rob Tonkin (l), Alan Holt and Neale Holt and Wycheproof's Jono Grylls's combo of Alan Jones (s), Jason McKay and Nick Coles, Wedderburn was holding a four-shot advantage overall.

All other matches had been completed, and the focus was on the eight bowlers still able to influence the outcome of an enthralling and entertaining clash.

When Wyche.'s Alan Jones, Jason McKay and Nick Coles built up a significant head, most of Wedderburn's bowls on the outside, it took a precise delivery from Wedderburn third Neale Holt, that edged its way into the head for shot, to wrest back the advantage. Wycheproof's fate looked to have been sealed.

With his final bowl, however, Wyche. skipper Jono

Grylls clipped the shot bowl far enough to the left, leaving his team holding 5 shots, enough to win the day. Alan Jackson had one bowl to come, and could have reversed the outcome, but his delivery went wide of the mark, and Wyche. prevailed, by 1 shot.

Details:

St. Arnaud 76 d. Donald Golf 63.

Darren Shepherd, Colin Marchment, Phil McRae, Ashley Dyke (s) 26 d. Marilyn Frank, George Geddes, Robert Adams, Robert Reseigh (s) 24.

Thomas Amos, Greg McNally, Glendon Hancock, Steven Zsigmond (s) 25 d. Bill Livingston, Shane O'Shea, Adrian Humphreys, Daniel Pettifer (s) 19.

Tony Marland, Maurie Wood, Allan Welsh, Terry McSwain (s) 25 d. Geoff Stopps, Belinda Murray, Stewart Hollis, Peter Hibberd (s) 20.

Wedderburn 62 lost to Wycheproof 63.

Dale Stephenson, Amy Roberts, Bob Montebello, Laurie Witham (s) 12 lost to Eric Rayes, Brett MacDonald, Dale Groves, Aaron Mead (s) 29.

Robert Tonkin, Alan Holt, Neale Holt, Alan Jackson (s) 23 d. Alan Jones, Jason McKay, Nick Coles, Jono Grylls (s) 21.

Rob Guelfo, Bruce Hargreaves, Andrew Caserta, Damien Mason (s) 27 d. Peter Coles, Allan Coatsworth, Paul Wellington, Grant Allan (s) 13.

Wycheproof Wins

Wycheproof reinforced its standing as the top team in Division 2 over recent years by outpointing Saturday's second semi-final opponent, Wedderburn, by 16 shots, despite winning only one of the three rinks on the day.

Rob Grylls, with lead Seth Wellington (l), Vince Grant and Donald "Duck" Denney, proved to be the game breakers for Wyche., accounting for Lance Standfield, Sandra Steel (l), Mario Guelfo and Ruth Hall by 19 shots.

John Grant, with Robert "Chicken Man" Ashley (l), Bernard Catherine and Colin

Mills, regained some of the lost ground for Wedderburn by defeating Matt Nicholls's combination of Paul Bagley (l), John McLean and George Coatsworth by 3 shots.

At the end of the day, nothing separated Wyche.'s Paul Connolly, Des Nicholls (l), Steve Barratt and Jeannie Grylls and Wedderburn's Ian Hall, Stephen Lear (l), Neville White and Allan Noordennen, both having scored 26 shots.

The clash between cross town rivals, St. Arnaud and St. Arnaud Country Club, was decided by 13 shots, the home green advantage held by the latter, possibly being a factor in the keenly contested encounter.

Country Club won two of the three rinks, when John Needs, with Leigh Watkins (s), Chris Webb and Kevin Meade downed Lloyd Goddard's combination of Jayson Barron (l), Gerald McIntyre and Wayne Rourke by 7 shots, and Arnold Bond, with Ben Medlyn (l), Graham Shaw and Neil Robinson accounted for Lauren Goodwin with Gary Shinnars (s), Craig Cheesman and Paul Micallef by 11 shots.

Kerryn Dyke's combo of Andrea Tyler (l), Peter Duncan and John Prendergast gave St. Arnaud one winning rink, defeating Country Club's Phil Elliott, and his team of Gary White (l), Steven Atkinson and Paul Mullins by 5 shots.

Details:
Wycheproof 78 d. Wedderburn 62.

Des Nicholls, Steve Barratt, Jeannie Grylls, Paul Connolly (s) 26 drew with Stephen Lear, Neville White, Allan Noordennen, Ian Hall (s) 26.

Paul Bagley, John McLean, George Coatsworth, Matt Nicholls (s) 22 lost to Robert Ashley, Bernard Catherine, Colin Mills, John Grant (s) 25. Seth Wellington, Vince Grant, Donald Denney, Rob Grylls (s) 30 d. Sandra Steel, Mario Guelfo, Ruth Hall, Lance Standfield (s) 11.

St. Arnaud 64 lost to St. Arnaud Country Club 77.

Jayson Barron, Gerald McIntyre, Wayne Rourke,

• Continued on page 15.



• Long time bowler Colin Marchment uses the bowling to deliver his bowl. Behind him is George Geddes and Darren Sheperd.



• St. Arnaud skipper Kerryn Dyke delivers her bowl, watching on is her town rival Phil Elliot. Kerryn's rink won but lost overall to St. Arnaud Country Club.