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Published Tuesdays and Fridays

PP331336/0000 1

Tuesday, February 25, 2025

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

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

As Elections Approach . . . Q. & A. at Birchip

A meeting held at the Birchip Leisure Centre on Sunday, February 23, provided an opportunity for a question and answer forum with National party members, Dr. Anne Webster and Gaelle Broad, representing both the state and federal levels of parliament.

The meeting was well attended with people travelling from as far as Mildura, Maryborough, Swan Hill, Horsham and everywhere in between. Taking into account the distance of communte for so many, the event was deliciously catered for by Sharp's Bakery.

Following the hearty lunch, Anne Webster welcomed all present and introduced state member for northern Victoria Gaelle Broad. Both spoke briefly before opening up to the audience to raise concerns, ask questions and bring up issues that could be addressed in parliament.

Topics were varied and included things like isolation in rural areas, housing, community safety, home safety (and crime), farm safety (accidents and fatalities), health services, mobile phone service, the state budget and of

course, turbines, mines and transmission lines.

Anne and Gaelle both fielded questions and supported each other's responses, adding comments and further information as required, making it a very informative session indeed. Many had issues which can be escalated through parliament and brought to light some of the challenges faced by those living within the electorate.

With an upcoming federal election on the horizon, the coalition is almost furtive in challenging the current Labor

party and its poor policy, particularly the rushed roll out of renewables.

This meeting provided a good opportunity for members of parliament to meet with the public and engage with the communities they represent.

Anne Webster has a good rapport with her constituents and a personal connection to the communities she serves. To get in contact phone Anne's office on 1300 131 620 or email anne.webster.mp@aph.gov.au



• The Birchip Leisure Centre was well attended on Sunday.



• Federal Member for Mallee Dr Anne Webster and State member for Northern Victoria, Gaelle Broad, during their visit to Birchip on Sunday, February 23, where a large crowd gathered for a Nationals Q & A forum.



A Feast for Famished Feathered Fliers

The area alongside Racecourse Road on the outskirts of Donald township has long been a favourite feeding place for thousands of corellas.

Mid-morning last Friday, this photograph was taken near the main entrance to the Donald racecourse, where the pure white birds forage in the grass for treats, including grain that at times shakes loose from transports on their way to the Donald weighbridge.

For Regional Growth and Sustainability . . . Pipeline Milestone Reached

GWMWater has received a critical planning approval which will allow work to commence in zone four of the East Grampians Rural Pipeline Project.

Zone four will extend rural water supply to landholders in Willaura and Moyston.

The pipeline is set to transform the region with its promise of a reliable, high-quality water supply.

The ambitious project, delivered by GWMWater in partnership with Mitchell Water Australia, aims to provide water security to up to 1000 rural farming properties over an area of 200,000 hectares.

Construction is well underway, with the Lake Fyans Pump Station, a key component of the network, due to be completed in early April.

Pipeline is being laid near Ararat, and to date more than 100 kilometres of pipe has been installed in Zone 2. Surveys have also now started within zone 3 and a contract has been awarded for works in zone 4.

GWMWater Managing Director, Mark Williams, said Mitchell Water was working hard to get pipe in the ground as quickly as possible, so

landholders could access water as soon as possible.

“We plan to provide interim supplies to those with signed agreements in place as soon as the pipeline is commissioned in each zone. Landholders will be kept informed as this becomes available,” he said.

Mr Williams said the project was not just about providing water, but about securing a sustainable future for the East Grampians.

“By enabling existing agricultural enterprises to consolidate and expand, and by providing opportunities for new enterprises to develop, the project is poised to be a catalyst for regional growth,” he said.

“The extension of the rural pipeline network into the south west Loddon area was dubbed the ‘best development for the region since electricity’ and landholders said the pipeline had given their farm a future for their children.

“The economic, social and environmental benefits of rural pipelines are the reason we keep pursuing government support for these projects, despite the complex environment we are working in to deliver.”

The East Grampians Rural Pipeline is funded by the Victorian State Government (\$32 million), \$32 million from the Australian Government through the National Water Grid Fund, and contributions from GWMWater and local landowners. This financial backing underscores the project’s importance and the confidence in its potential to drive economic, social, and environmental benefits for the region.

The project is expected to create numerous job opportunities and stimulate local businesses by sourcing materials and labour locally. This community-centric approach ensures that the benefits of the project extend beyond just water security, fostering a sense of unity and progress within the region.



• Lake Fyans Pump Station.



• Work in progress.

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In the Wake of Granted Electricity Licence... Farmer Rights at Stake

The Victorian Farmers Federation (VFF) says the Essential Services Commission’s decision to grant Transmission Company Victoria (TCV) an electricity transmission licence must not be treated as a licence to steamroll landholders in the path of planned renewable energy projects.

Amongst a raft of new powers, the licence enables TCV workers to legally enter farms and carry out preparatory works for the VNI West powerline without the need to obtain landholder consent.

VFF president Brett Hosking said landholders and farmers have reacted with trepidation to the announcement and TCV has a duty to act respectfully and in good faith with impacted landholders and communities.

“TCV’s newly minted electricity transmission licence doesn’t trump their social license obligations,” he said.

“There is a genuine sense of uneasiness around this decision and it boils down to a deplorable track record when

it comes to these companies treating landholders and communities with respect.

“We absolutely cannot lose focus that those impacted are generational farming families and not ‘soft targets’ for compulsory access. These people are the glue of our regional communities and they deserve to be treated with dignity.

“I have conveyed the VFF’s views strongly to TCV and we will be keeping an eagle eye out for any conduct that oversteps the line.

“The VFF is continuing to call on the Victorian Government to pause the VNI West project immediately until they get the community and landholder engagement right. We can’t stand idle and watch as prime agriculture



• Brett Hosking.

land is irreversibly destroyed without consideration to the agriculture industry and the farming livelihoods at stake.

“Once destroyed, these landscapes can never be restored.”

Comic Opera to Thrill the Senses

It was supposed to have contained “too many notes” but was beloved by the general public.

Its title has a word in it which nobody these days has ever heard of. Yet despite these funny quirks, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart’s first acknowledged opera “The Abduction from the Seraglio” yields a treasure trove of thrilling music which hints at the greatness to come from this composer extraordinaire.

And Buloke audiences can experience this live when the Lyster Opera Company, in association with the Rex Theatre, presents the work on Saturday, March 29 at 2 p.m..

Offering an uncomplicated storyline, “Seraglio” (pronounced “ser-raa -li -o” and meaning “women’s quarters” or “harem”) was one of the most performed of Mozart’s operas during his lifetime.

Turkish Harem

The action is set in a Turkish harem and relates the story of Spanish nobleman, Belmonte and his friend, Pedrillo who set off to Turkey to rescue Belmonte’s fiancé, Konstanze, and her friend, Blonde who have been kidnapped to be sold as slaves by the ruler, Pasha Selim.

The opera plays out in hilarious, action-packed circumstances wherein the heroes and heroines must outwit their captors, particularly the fiendish Osmin (the bad guy), who oversees of the Pasha’s seraglio.

Developed to reflect the interest in the exotic culture of the Ottoman Empire and Turkey at the time, the work was created in the genre

known as “singspiel” (literally a singing play with dialogue, with the role of Pasha Selim as a speaking part).

Written when Mozart was just 26 years of age, the work features some of his most spectacular and difficult arias – in particular for the role of Konstanze – a part which has been likened to the “ironman/ironwoman” of singing. The vocally challenging “Matern aller arten” (“Tortures of all kinds”) requires extraordinary vocal athleticism and technical mastery and is one of the most demanding showpieces in the soprano repertoire. A truly bravura role requiring a wide vocal range, along with intense lyricism, this is frequently the “show-stopper” piece with its thrillingly stratospheric vocals.

Lyster Opera Director, Jamie Moffat said, “The work requires very accomplished singers, and is often difficult to cast because it needs two sopranos, two tenors and a bass. It’s a very fast paced opera, so the challenge is to sing it accurately while keeping the plot bubbling along. While the work is a comedy, it also has some very dramatic moments.”

In bringing opera to regional areas, Jamie said the Lyster Company fulfills the entrepreneurship of William Saurin Lyster, who first brought the art form to the growing population of Australia in the nineteenth and early twentieth century.



• A highly enthusiastic response greeted last year’s performance by the Lyster Opera Company at The Rex pictured here in a scene from the production.

Dispelling the idea that opera is elitist and only for the musically sophisticated, Jamie said that the touring productions show opera to be accessible and particularly with “Seraglio”, that it can be fun.

“Mozart wrote very accessible music,” Jamie said, “and he also wrote for popular audiences.”

Cast members for this and other Lyster performances are all emerging professionals,

many of whom appear with a variety of other companies.

“Lyster aims to give emerging talent an opportunity to add new roles to their repertoire without having to travel overseas to do so”, said Jamie.

That Question

And back to that question of “too many notes”?

Attributed anecdotally to Austrian Emperor, Joseph II (who commissioned the work) the monarch initially

praised the composer at the show’s premier in 1782 before deflating the situation with the aforementioned comment. A confused Mozart is supposed to have responded, “But there are just as many notes, Majesty, as are required. Neither more nor less!”

You Be the Judge

Why don’t you be the judge! Come along and revel in afternoon of sublime singing and musicianship.

“The Abduction from the Seraglio” – Saturday 29th March 2 p.m. | Rex Theatre, Charlton

Tickets: General Admission - \$40 | Concession – Seniors, Full-time students, Centrelink - \$35 | Children – 16 years and under - \$30.

Bookings: 0410 890 388 | lysteropera.com.au | <https://www.trybooking.com/events/landing/1329713> or at the door.

On Regional Housing in Mallee . . . Minister Missing in Action?

Member for Mallee Dr Anne Webster has hit back at the Albanese Government’s criticism of the Auditor-General reviewing the recent Regional Housing Support program, saying it further reinforces their disinterest in supporting dire housing needs in Mallee.

A faceless spokesperson for Infrastructure Minister told a Mallee newspaper “our department doesn’t consider electorates when working through grant applications, it is a purely merit based process.”

“Missing-in-action Minister King trotted out an anonymous public servant, not even putting her own name to any response to my criticism,” Dr Webster said.

“This is typical of Labor’s dismissive, scorched-earth approach to regional Australia. Zero engagement, zero interest, just send a public servant to respond.

“I cannot remember when the Minister has even set foot

on official business in Mallee, despite her Ballarat electorate being our neighbour. The Minister’s behaviour here suggests she doesn’t have a care or clue about Mallee’s needs.”

Dr Webster’s joint media release with Shadow Infrastructure Minister and Victorian Senator Bridget McKenzie criticised the Albanese Government ignoring Mallee’s needs under the Regional Housing Support program, which is why Dr Webster asked the Auditor-General to investigate. The Auditor-General has confirmed the Australian National Audit Office intends to do so.

Yarriambiack Shire Council submitted four applications for the program, and Swan Hill Rural City Council submitted two – yet not one Mallee shire received funding.

Yarriambiack Mayor Kylie Zanker said last month: “As a Mayor to say our council is disappointed is an understatement. We work restlessly on funding applications and to miss out again is just heart-breaking. We submit quality applications investing time and money on consultants to assist to ensure our applications are of the highest standard and to be unsuccessful is devastating. Four quality projects across Yarriambiack and

not one funded. Our communities deserve so much more than the ‘zero’ that is being delivered.”

Stranded

Dr Webster cited Mayor Zanker and the Mildura Rural City Council missing out on Growing Regions Program round 2 funding in Parliament earlier this month. Regional Victorian shires were stranded by the Growing Regions Program round 2 when Labor announced applications for funding during a period overlapping the caretaker period for local government elections.

A Swan Hill Rural City Council spokesperson told the “Swan Hill Guardian” about being overlooked for



• Dr. Anne Webster.

Regional Housing Support program funding: “While this funding outcome is disappointing, we will build on our efforts, explore alternative

opportunities, and work collaboratively to continue to drive positive and innovative housing solutions for our community.”

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

- Feb. 25, Col. Gilmour
- Feb. 27, Bob Baker (98)
- Feb. 28, Jordan Bath
- Feb. 28, Norm Hollis
- March 3, Evie Donnellon
- March 3, Shannon McMillan




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

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\$15 includes dinner, students free.

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Informal drop-in session for community members who are interested in volunteering to help with fundraising for our local hospital.

See what has been funded in the past whether it be a large or small item, they all help with improving the facilities at the Donald Hospital and Nursing Home.

Volunteers are needed for this organisation to continue. Drop in and have a look – any suggestions welcome.

Where: Court House meeting room (beside the Post Office). **When:** Tuesday, March 4 between 1 p.m. & 5 p.m.

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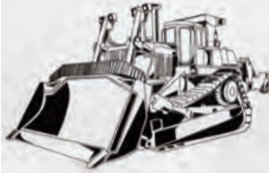
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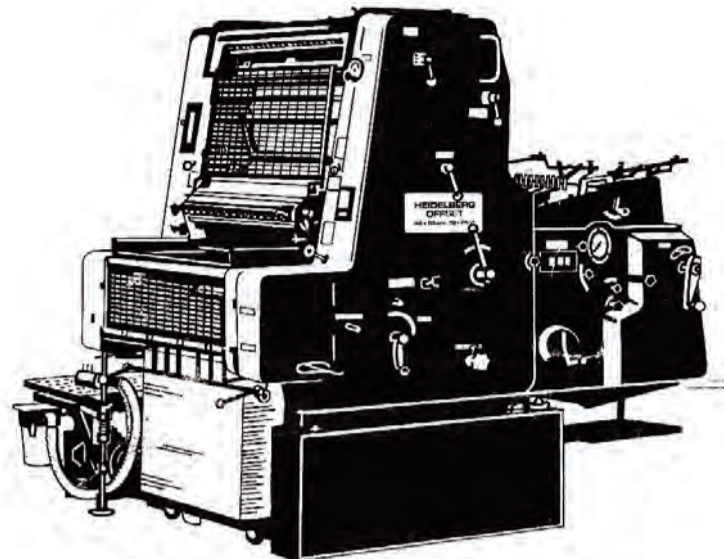
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• This is part of our trekking route from Lukla to Mt Kala Pattar (this is the main “highway” from Lukla to Everest base camp). We walked 130+ km return over 17 days. Note our two Sherpa friends on the track (with their “zopkio” – a cross between a yak and a cow) carrying most of our goods – tent, sleeping bags, food etc) they were an amazing help to us in the high altitude and thin air which sapped our energy. The route up the Khumbu valley was spectacular with snow covered peaks towering above us on both sides. Sometimes Yaks go past – it is important to get on the upper side of the track as on the low side you might be pushed off by one of these animals and you will risk falling into the deep ravine below. Some trekkers have been killed this way.

Destination: Mt Everest!

The pilot of the Airbus A 350 – 900 aircraft on the runway at the Tullamarine international airport pushed the throttles forward and the whisper of the Rolls-Royce Trent jet engines became a subdued roar as 40 tonnes of thrust from each of the two engines accelerated the 280 tonne mass of the fully laden aircraft down the runway.



• Bruce Stewart

Soon the scenery outside the aircraft windows was flashing by at 260 kilometres per hour and then the plane nose “rotated” and my wife and I were in the air bound for Singapore, 6000 kilometres away. We were travelling to visit our son Tim and his wife Kristen and their children Mikayla, Joshua and Chloe living in Cambodia, where they serve with the Pioneers mission.

On a long aircraft flight I usually grab a book and begin reading. However, on this flight I introduced myself to the young man sitting beside me. I discovered his name was Chris, I asked him, “Where are you travelling to?” He replied, “My friend (indicating him sitting across the aisle) and I are planning to trek from Lukla to Mt Everest”.

Immediately he had my full attention as I replied, saying that many years ago a friend, Ted Endacott and I had trekked the same route. So a long conversation started. Chris was especially interested in asking me questions to gain more information to help them with final planning.

World’s Highest

Mt Everest is the world’s highest mountain rising to 8848 m. above sea level. For comparison’s sake, Australia’s tallest mountain is Mount Kosciuszko reaching 2228 m. into the sky, one quarter the height of Everest!

I said to Chris that Ted and I stayed with friends in Kathmandu for a few days and then took a flight from Kathmandu to Lukla, landing on what many regard as the most dangerous airfield in the world.

I remember that the Swiss pilot of the Pilatus Porter aircraft we travelled in landed us beautifully on the 12 degree sloping runway which sits at an altitude of 2860 m. The thin air, highly changeable weather and short, steeply sloping airfield contributes to it being hazardous. Lukla is the gateway to the high Himalayas and so is used extensively by trekkers like Ted and I, and also the more serious expeditions hoping to summit Mt Everest.

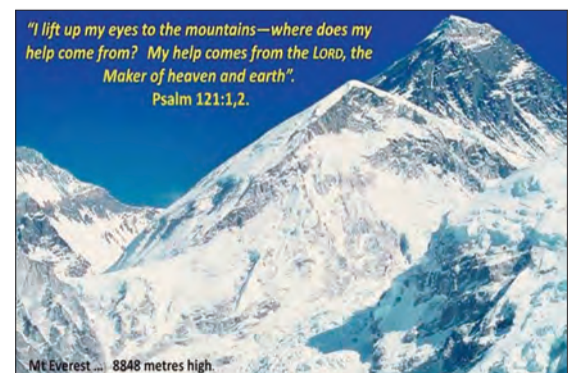
On landing at Lukla some of the world famous Sherpas gathered around our plane. Soon we gained the services of Dadoge and his brother, two very capable Sherpas who we employed as our guides, cooks and pack carriers. Soon we were trekking through stunning scenery on the way to Namche Bazaar, the main centre for the Khumbu area.

The next stop was Tengboche at an altitude of 3800 m. This town was the site for the world’s highest altitude hotel, with spectacular views looking all the way up the valley to Mt Everest itself. Eventually we climbed above the vegetation zone and on to Mt Kala Patthar, summiting at 5,644 m. From the summit there is an amazing view of Mt Everest and other peaks such as Mt Lhotse and Nuptse.

Interacting with the Nepalese people and seeing the spectacular mountain scenery all around us were amazing experiences reminding me of the Bible verse: “For since the creation of the world God’s invisible qualities – His eternal power and divine nature – have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse” (Romans 1:20).

We live in a very damaged creation now, but our Creator’s “fingerprints” are still around for us to see – its wonder, beauty and complexity, and He has also revealed Himself through His Son the Lord Jesus Christ (John 1:14), whom we can come to know and follow if we so choose. We have much to be grateful for. Have a great day!

Bruce Stewart.



• Mt Everest is the black pyramid shaped peak at the top right. The Khumbu ice fall area – centre of picture – crevasses and shifting ice make this a dangerous part of the route for those scaling Everest (which we did not attempt to do). Ted and I feasted on this sight many years ago looking across to the peak of Mt Everest (8848m) – we were atop Mt Kala Patthar (5644m high).

Community Update Buloke.

Have Your Say – 2025/26 Annual Budget & Long-Term Financial Plan

The development of the Draft 2025/26 Annual Budget and the review of Council’s Long-Term Financial Plan is underway. Community feedback is a key part of this process to ensure that the budget helps to shape the future of our services, infrastructure and key community projects.

Feedback can be provided by:

- Submitting a response by completing an online survey via the QR code
- Written submission via email to Council’s records department – buloke@buloke.vic.gov.au
- Written submission via postal mail to PO Box 1 Wycheproof, VIC 3527 Attn: Buloke Shire Council Finance Team
- Submitting a response by completing a hardcopy survey available at Council’s Customer Service Centre - Wycheproof Shire Office

- Submitting a response by completing a hardcopy or online survey at the Community Summit Event hosted by Council on Monday 17 March 2025 in the Wycheproof Supper Room from 6pm. (Attendees are asked to please RSVP ahead of time to the Customer Service Centre by phoning 1300 520 520).

The community consultation period for the 2025/26 Annual Budget and Long-Term Financial Plan will run for 4 weeks, commencing on 18 February 2025 and concluding on 19 March 2025.

For more information, please visit www.buloke.vic.gov.au or call 1300 520 520.



Have your Say - Library Service Review – Survey Extended!

The Buloke Shire Library Services Review Survey is now open until 9 March 2025.

To complete the survey, visit the Have Your Say page at www.buloke.vic.gov.au 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 van.

Additional pop-up community consultations have also been added to include the following locations

Fri 28 February	Watchem	4.15pm-5.15pm	Watchem Swimming Pool
Wed 5 March	Nullawil	11am-12pm	MCH Building, 6 Calder Hwy
	Culgoa	12.25pm-1.15pm	Mallee Bunker Café, 6 Main S
	Nandaly	2.15pm-3.15pm	Nandaly Travellers Rest, 4 Messines St
	Berriwillock	4pm-5pm	Berriwillock Swimming Pool

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

Community Grant Recipients

Congratulations to the following recipients who were awarded funds under our Community Grants Program, at the February Council Meeting:

- Berriwillock Community Development Group – \$2,000 for the ‘Berriwillock Rodeo’
- Fit to Drive Foundation – \$2,000 for the ‘Fit2Drive’ program

Do you have a project that benefits the Buloke Shire community? You could be eligible for a Council grant too! Email grants@buloke.vic.gov.au to find out more or call 1300 520 520.

Calling all young people in Buloke Shire!

Do you live in Buloke and are aged between 12 to 25 years? Do you want to have your say on the issues that matter most to you?

Join the new Buloke Youth Advisory Group and have a say in shaping local youth services, events, and initiatives!

As a member of the group, you will get the chance to:

- Represent young people in Buloke Shire
- Advocate for issues important to you and other young people
- Advise the Buloke Shire Council on the needs of youth
- Build leadership skills and confidence
- Influence youth programs and projects

Expression of interest open until 21 March 2025.

To find out more or submit an Expression of Interest, visit www.buloke.vic.gov.au/youth-services

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

Urban and Parks Maintenance Operators (Casual). From \$38.17 per hour (incl. industry allowance, casual loading + statutory superannuation)

We are looking for pro-active and self-motivated individuals to join our Open Spaces team and help with routine upkeep and improvement to Councils’ outdoor spaces and urban areas. Successful applicants will join a casual pool of candidates who will be allocated shifts on an as needed basis and have the potential to join the open spaces team permanently, given the availability.

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.



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



• Many hands at work at Nullawil learning decoupage and decorating birdboxes.

Biodiversity Trail Final Installations Complete

The final art installations for the Men's Sheds Biodiversity Trail have now been installed in Nandaly, Watchem, and Nullawil, completing this unique community-led project in ten towns across Buloke Shire.

Featuring handcrafted avian and insect homes, the trail has been a collaborative effort between the Men's Sheds in Birchip, Charlton, Donald, Wycheproof and Sea Lake, local artists and community members, Landcare and Buloke Shire Council.

Buloke Shire Council Mayor, Alan Getley, highlighted the success of the Biodiversity Trail and the positive response from the community.

"Tourists have been stopping to take photos of these unique installations, and local walkers are noticing birds making homes in them," he said.

Supported through Australian and Victorian Government Community Recovery funding, the project not only enhances biodiversity, but also celebrates local creativity and resilience in response to the October 2022 flood event.

Emergency Recovery

"At Emergency Recovery Victoria (ERV), community is at the centre of everything we do. Along with the Victorian and Australian Government, we are proud to support this project under the Community Recovery Hubs Program," said ERV CEO Mariela Diaz.

"This initiative is a fantastic example of the community banding together to deliver a project which will have lasting impacts for years to come."

Men's Sheds

The Mayor emphasised the important role of Men's Sheds in fostering community connection and mental wellbeing.

"The Biodiversity Trail stands as a testament to their invaluable contributions," he added.

"The initiative has even sparked further creativity, with the Donald Men's Shed now producing birdhouse kits as a spin-off project."

With installations now in place across the region, the trail leaves a lasting legacy, strengthening both environmental and community connections.



• Nullawil Silo Art visitor rest area along the Calder Highway, is now enhanced with some avian real estate and for visitors to view.



• Birdhouses have been installed adjacent to the Watchem Lake Camping Reserve walking track, providing habitat for local birdlife and enhancing the natural surroundings.

A Call from Friends of EWHS Donald Campus

Previously known as Donald Hospital Auxiliary, this group has been in existence for many years with such passionate members donating their time and/or cooking skills catering at clearing sales, Donald Race Club meetings, Christmas promotion evenings, etc..

They were able to fund much needed equipment from these events for the hospital and nursing home whether it be something large or small, such as toiletry bags for patients who were admitted at the last minute and weren't able to collect their own belongings from home.

Funded Items

One of the many funded items was the refurbishment of the Nursing Home kitchen and lounge, many comfortable chairs and king size single beds. The latest acquisition in 2024 was dialysis scales, accessible for wheelchairs with digital reading and printout. And so far this year 2025 we are committed to fund an ECG machine and a bariatric shower chair.

Unfortunately over the last few years our volunteers have dwindled for many different reasons and we had to discontinue our major fundraiser of catering for the Donald Race Club. At the moment we still cater for Probus morning tea each month.

Volunteers

This article is to make you aware that the existing executive are unable to continue in their roles (but willing to assist) and hope there will be enough interest from community members who are willing to volunteer their time and/or baking abilities. The group will be holding a much belated AGM possibly in April.

This organisation will have to go into recess if new members are not found, and the Donald Hospital and Nursing Home will miss out on much needed up to date equipment and items to help existing residents live more comfortably.

Drop-in Sessions

An informal drop-in session will be held at the Courthouse Room meeting room (beside Post Office) Tuesday, March 4, between 1 p.m. and

5p.m.. This much needed organisation is trying to ascertain whether there is sufficient interest to continue as an auxiliary and how it can go forward. Even if you are unable to be involved, but would like to see what has been funded in the past, you are welcome to drop-in. Also if you are interested in being involved and unable to attend this session please contact Rhonda Laird 0409 955 199, or Lesley Pendlebury 0407 861 711.



• Dialysis Scales.

One Hundred Years Ago

From the "Birchip Advertiser", March 6, 1925.

Local and General

Hotels Change Hands:

Mr. R. H. Gook has purchased THE LEASE OF THE Birchip Hotel from Mr. Mason and will take immediate possession.

Mr. T. Dean has disposed of his interests in the Commercial Hotel.

**

Cow Shot: On Tuesday afternoon some boys were out shooting with a shot gun on the outskirts of the town and one of the party managed to shoot a cow owned by Mrs. Bray. The cow received the charge on the shoulder and the head but it managed to survive the ordeal.

**

New Auctioneering Business: Messrs. Young Bros, the well known Stock and Station Agents, of Horsham, have opened a Branch of their business in Birchip, under the Management of Mr., H. J. Gardner, who is well and

favourably known in the Wycheproof district, where he represents the firm as Manager some years ago. He has also been in business in Maryborough on his own account, and has a thorough knowledge of stock, land, etc. Office opposite Mechanics Hall.

**

Agricultural Society

A meeting of the Birchip A and P Society was held at the Mechanics' Hall on last Saturday Afternoon.

Date of the Show

A list of shows held during the month of October was produced, including the Wimmera Shows, with one exception, no less than 30 shows were held in that month last year.

Messrs. S. Barber and M. Coffey moved that the motion on the books re the date of show be rescinded. Carried.

The chairman stated that it was advisable to avoid holding our show during the same

week as Warracknabeal and Beulah and he favoured reverting back to the old date—the third Wednesday in September. He pointed out that Birchip would then follow Ouyen and Donald, which would be an advantage.

Messrs. S. Barber and T. McClelland moved that the date of next show be fixed for September 16th. The motion was carried unanimously.

Conference Re Show Dates

The Secretary was instructed to communicate with the secretary of the conference at Bendigo and advise that Birchip was in sympathy with the movement but no delegate was available.

Annual Convention

An appeal was made for delegates to attend the Annual Convention at Portland on March 21, 25 and 26. Only two delegates were appointed. Members who are willing to accept the appointment, should advise the secretary.

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

Creativity to the Fore

The year 2025, is off to a great start in Donald High School's art room, with some incredible creativity!

The Year 7s are starting off with an art colour study. The Chameleon, created by Riley Jones and Max Reilly, is an adorable green fellow, first started off in sketch form in Riley's visual diary. The design would soon evolve into the basis of a group task, as all good ideas grow!

Coming together the group all added their artistic talents and brought the chameleon from a small idea in a sketch book to an incredible artistic piece all involved can be proud of.

Karleisha Anderson and Erin Clark were the principal designers of the Blue Whale. The layering of acrylic paint, white (tint) with many shades

of blue, created the first layer in this large-scale piece in their recent colour study lessons in Art. After the first spotted layer, students were inspired by the aquatic theme you see pictured. Karleisha designed the whale and enlarged this design, sketching it over the spots. Paint and dry pastels formed the body of the whale, taking advantage of the textures that were created by the big spots of blue underneath. Tiny pencil fish, squid, snails and other small drawings filled the background to add dimension and depth, with a final layer of white pastel that locked the whole image in a 3D multi-layered effect, which the students



found really intricate and interesting.

Aylexii-Jade Papesch (Lexii), Paul Watson and Victor Sak created an explosion of red in their lady-bird mural. While they were working, the students were overheard talking about the use of yellow, pink, purple and brown in amongst their work and how these affected the primary colour. Texture and up-close details show a large ladybird, living in a daisy patch surrounded by, and sometimes engulfed by, red-back spiders; in keeping with the primary red colour theme and adding interest to their composition. This work is on display on the floor of the College Reception so beware of treading on lady-bug and the spiders!

Students have also looked at acrylic paint on cartridge paper.

Year 8 TED

In an important reminder of what a future in the design and manufacturing industries can look like. One Year 8 student was introduced to the Fusion 360 CAD design program in Year 7 in TED in 2024. Currently on prototype number 10, he has created a resistor holder that has a hinged lid and securely closes for the safe transport of these small electronic components in his pencil case. The product was printed with a 3D printer. Through problem solving and designing for purpose, students at Donald High School can create solutions that affect their everyday lives in positive ways. Well done!



• The fully realized Chameleon, with a few guest animals.



• The idea grew, and so too did the team working on it! Toby Lydom, Laikyn Holland, Riley Jones, Harley Roberts, Max Reilly and Harvey Niero all pitched in their creative talents.



• The Lady-Bird.



• Josie Nunn.



• Madeline Morton.



• Erin Clark and Karleisha Anderson.

– New Year Under Way



• This Year 8 student was introduced to the Fusion 360 CAD design program in Year 7 in TED in 2024. Currently on prototype number 10, he has created a resistor holder that has a hinged lid and securely closes for the safe transport of these small electronic components in his pencil case.



• The Blue Whale.



• Aylexii-Jade Papesch (Lexii), Paul Watson and Victor Sak.



• Riley's visual diary, showcasing the Chameleons growth from the idea stage.

“OK” Party Kicks Off

Charlton's population swelled significantly last weekend with the arrival of hundreds of visitors for the annual “OK Motels” event which combines music, community fellowship and a welcoming embrace for travellers from across the state and beyond.

Initiated in 2018 by entrepreneur and photographer, Kate Berry, the 2025 incarnation has seen the gathering grow in stature, embracing more of the community and drawing a strong returnee crowd, along with plenty of first-timers.

Last Saturday's heat was no deterrent for participants, with the pool party literally being one of the “hottest tickets” in town as a massive crowd made the most of a refreshing dip and took in the aqua-batics of “The Clams” water ballet.

With the 1970s-styled Charlton Motel as the hub, Friday night's opening kicked off with a variety of bands – a stand-out being saxophonist Kirsty Tickle from the “Party Dozen”, who had the crowd raving. A moving “welcome to country” was also a highlight for many. The party picked up steam on Saturday and Sunday with plenty of activities happening across the town.

More stories and a review of the weekend will appear in the next edition of the “Times”.



• It's time to party! Melbourne trio (left to right) Lanie Harris, Catherine Lawford (partly obscured) and Kristen Reilly in the mood of the weekend at the Saturday evening dinner held at the Charlton Hall.



• Local band “Blend It” (left to right) Stephen Melican, Leo Tellefson and Edward Parry – standing in for Ross Lane) kept the large crowd happy during the Saturday evening dinner before patrons headed on to the Charlton Motel for the headline acts.

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.





Worm Burdens – Is It the Right Time to Strike?

Cast your mind back to recent years, the relatively wet summers of 2021-23 led to high worm burdens in your livestock.

This summer we experienced a burst of early rain in December that may have reduced the effectiveness of an early summer drench.

Since then, it has been relatively hot and dry, and this may provide you a window of opportunity to give an effective, strategic summer drench.

Strategic summer drenching usually involves an

effective drench at the beginning and end of summer. This is to take advantage of the destruction of worm larvae on pasture by heat and the lack of moisture.

The life cycle of the worm involves both your pasture and the animal. While the drench fixes the animal problem, the hot, dry conditions of



summer will help eliminate the pasture problem.

Before doing so, it is worth establishing which, if any, parts of your flock require drenching.

Drenching is both expensive and time consuming therefore pre-drench faecal egg counts (FECs) will put some science and evidence into whether to drench.

Furthermore, worm resistance, particularly to the white and clear drenches, is common in Victoria.

Unnecessary overuse and the incorrect use of drenches just add to the problem.

Ineffective chemicals and/or an inadequate drench procedure can reduce the effectiveness of summer drenching.

After drenching, try to put your sheep on to low-risk pastures. These may be paddocks previously grazed by cattle, cut for hay or silage, or grazed by low-risk sheep such as older wethers.

Ewes rearing lambs, and lambs after weaning are the most susceptible sheep in terms of worm burdens.

Large reinfestations of worms can occur in as little as 3 to 6 weeks if your drenching program is ineffective.

For further advice contact your local veterinarian or Agriculture Victoria veterinary or animal health officer.

What's On

GRDC Grains Research Updates – Seed quality and implications for sowing

Seed quality and implications for sowing. Kelly Angel (Birchip Cropping Group)

As we head into sowing 2025, growers are considering how to maximise germination and establishment. With adverse growing conditions experienced in several grain growing areas in 2024, seed quality is in focus. Kelly will cover best practice seed testing, benefits of undertaking testing and how to organise a seed test.

When: Wednesday, March 5, 2025.

Where: Online

To register: Visit the GRDC events page <https://grdc.com.au/events/list/2025/03/grdc-grains-research-update,-online-seed-quality-and-implications-for-sowing>

Wimmera Machinery Field Days

When: March 4-6r, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Where: Wimmera Machinery Field Days Site, Field Days Road, Longerenong, Vic. 3401.

BCG RiskWi\$e Roadshow: Succession Planning

This workshop is designed to provide you with the tools, insights and expert guidance to start shaping your succession plans with confidence.

RiskWi\$e is a 5-year, \$30 million national initiative (2023–2028) aimed at helping Australian grain growers navigate increasing levels of risk from weather variability and price volatility. By improving understanding of the risk-reward relationships in on-farm management decisions, RiskWi\$e supports growers in making informed, confident choices that maximise rewards and minimise potential losses.

Learn how to: Maximise rewards and minimise losses by understanding the risks behind key decisions on your farm. Make confident choices about farm business management and succession planning with insights tailored to real-world conditions. Turn uncertainty into opportunity by balancing the upside potential with the downside risks of every decision.

When: March 12, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Where: Birchip Community Leisure Centre, Morrison St, Birchip, Vic.

Register at: <https://www.bcg.org.au/event/riskwie-roadshow-succession-planning/>

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.

Early Alert System for Crop Disease Infection

In an Australian first, grain growers now have access to accurate, localised data to improve disease management through a project harnessing technology to track airborne disease spore movement.

The three-year, \$3.6 million project aims to provide growers and advisers with earlier awareness on the presence of blackleg, botrytis, leaf blights and spots (alternaria species), cereal powdery mildew and general rust in their crops. The Grains Research and Development Corporation (GRDC) investment is led by BioScout with support from several research and commercial partners across Australia.

As part of the project, a network of sensors that capture airborne particles containing fungal spores has been installed. When combined with artificial intelligence (AI) approaches, the data from these sensors allow for early alerts as to potential crop infection, when spores are microscopic and plants are asymptomatic, providing growers with the opportunity for more informed and timely disease management decisions.

GRDC Manager Agriculture Technology Peter Thompson said that presently, growers are reactive to fungal diseases, with detection possible only once disease is visible in crops.

"Growers are already on the back-foot once visual symptoms can be scouted by eye," Mr Thompson said.

"During early infection, spores are microscopic, and plants are asymptomatic, making disease difficult to detect. But at the same time, early infection is the optimal stage to apply fungicides.

"This project is providing more accurate and localised disease risk information for growers, so they can make more informed decisions on when and where to apply foliar fungicides, helping maximise profit from fungicide use and delay the onset of resistance."

As part of the project, 60 BioScout SporeScout units have been deployed across



As part of the GRDC investment, sixty BioScout SporeScout units have been deployed across Western Australia, South Australia, New South Wales, Victoria and Queensland. Photo: BioScout

Western Australia, South Australia, New South Wales, Victoria and Queensland.

The units use air sampling to trap fungal spores, which are photographed using automated microscopy. An AI function then compares these photos to a database of images to detect and identify fungal disease.

Data from the SporeScout units is displayed on BioScout's online dashboard, with graphs containing the airborne spore concentrations of specific pathogens.

BioScout CEO Lewis Collins said that over the 2024 season the network sampled nearly 1 billion litres of air, tracking and reporting on around 1.6 million unseen disease-causing spores in near real-time.

This sampling revealed a staggering 1.2 million spores of general alternaria.

"In another Australian first, we can now monitor and display 'pathogen movement' around the country in near real-time, providing an early warning detection system for many growers," he said.

"For example, in the last month, waves of general alternaria were seen travelling north to south along the

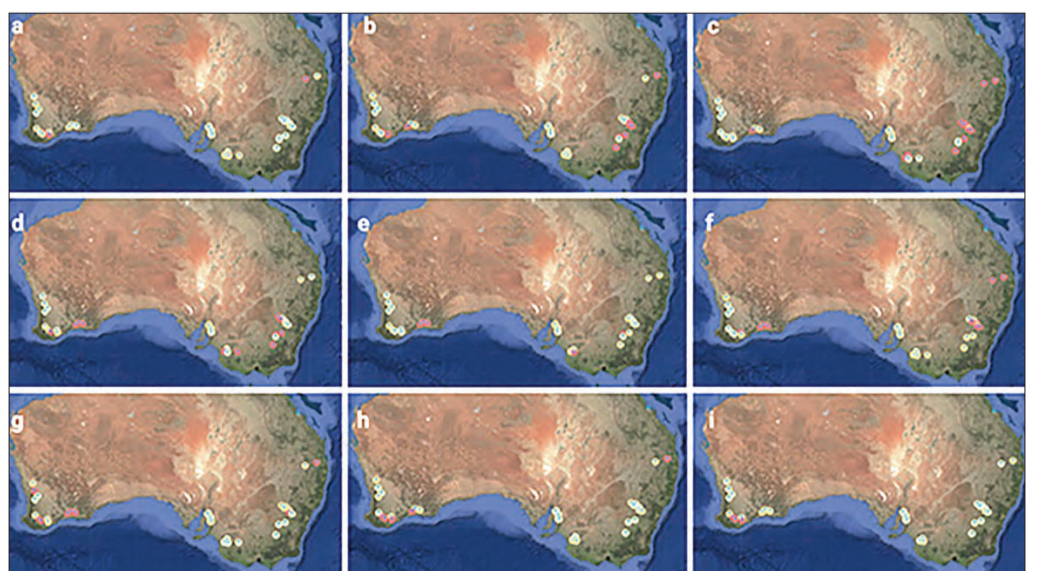
network's east, then back up again.

"The BioScout powered network is providing a level of unprecedented detail for growers that has not been available before."

The project is led by BioScout with support from Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (QDAF), Elders Rural Services Australia, Pairtree Intelligence, WA Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (WA DPIRD) and the South Australian Research and Development Institute (SARDI), a division of the department of Primary Industries and Regions South Australia (PIRSA).

The BioScout network is free to grain growers for the next 12 months, and BioScout encourages feedback during this period for further development. Growers and agronomists can access the network via the BioScout website.

This project is part of Grain Automate, a GRDC initiative to accelerate the adoption of machine automation, autonomy, and digital intelligence technologies by Australian grain growers.



The movement of general Alternaria captured by the BioScout network in January 2025. Red circles indicate the high concentration of the spores moving around over time. Photo: BioScout

Charlton 100 Years Ago

(Information from "East Charlton Tribune")

February 21 to 25, 1925.



• 1930s Fire Brigade. Back row, left to right: V. Brereton, R. Jenkins, E. Retallick, W. Clark, W. Soding. Centre row, left to right: E. Dabron, R. Curnow, P. Arundell, G. Burton, C. Burton, A. Thompson. Front row, left to right: B. Dullard, S. Arundell, J. Arundell, E. Wilson, T. Travaglia. Seated: A. Jenkins, E. Smith.

Property Market: Lined with motor cars – and humanity – the main thoroughfare presented an animated scene on Wednesday when important land sales were held at the East Charlton Hotel. On account of Mr F. Giles was offered 22 acres, known as Giles' and Leehans's. At £16 the land was disposed of to Messrs Soding Bros, whose existing property it adjoined. The 950 acre farm of Mr D. J. McGillivray was offered in two lots. Lot 1 was passed in but Lot 2 – 250 acres known as Kemp's was knocked down to Mr Frank Cossar at £12 12/-. The 11 acres, 2 roods 17 perches known as Ah Too's garden, about half-a-mile from the Show-ground, became the possession of Mrs Burton for £20 2/-. The brick

house at the corner of Halliday and Orr Streets was passed in at £660.

Understaffed: Since the Christmas vacation, several changes have taken place in the School staff, with the result that the institution is now under-staffed. The Headmaster received a communication from the Department asking him to notify Mr L. J. Bowe, Science Master, to proceed to Lilydale at once. Mr Bowe's duties are super-added to those of the headmaster. Mr Bowe was farewelled by pupils and the staff. The Sloyd Master, Mr J. Anson, has been notified that he is to work half-time at Inglewood and half-time at Charlton. Miss V. Stephenson is on sick leave, and her place, in charge of the Infant Department, is

being taken by Miss Rawlings.

Sporting Snapshots: Cricket – Glenloth East at home defeated Wycheproof. Glenloth: B. Smith 64 not out, J. Miller 48, G. Guy 10, J. Miller 4 for 21, A. Miller 4 for 28.

Harriers' Club: The membership is now about 22 and there are encouraging attendances at the tri-weekly gatherings.

The Bowling Green: Playing at home the Club secured a splendid and heartening victory over the strong-going Donald Club. Totals: Charlton 92; Donald 66.

Tennis: Woosang Tennis Club journeyed to Wychitella. A very evenly contested match was won by the visitors by 7 games. At home to Barakee the River Club won by 19 games.

Snake Story: While Messrs A. Wylie and H. G. Barber were returning from Wooroonook dreaming dreams of duck for supper, a brown reptile crossed their path. It did not desire any argument, and took refuge in a crevice; but it was pursued; and as Wylie grabbed it by the tail, Barber stood ready to grasp it by the head as it was dragged out. The programme worked to a T and the snake was caught. In the position referred to, it was brought in the two miles to Charlton and caged. Next day it was despatched, and skinned by Mr W. J. Morse, who was to tan it. The skin measured 6ft 1inch in length.

The Duck Shooting season has started. There does not appear to have been any scarcity of bird. At Buloke. S. G. Bennett and J. J. Ogburn shot 31 on the opening day. At Wooroonook, J. M. Smith and H. Butterworth bagged 25 between them and R. Malone shot a few, while a party consisting of Messrs A. C. Bertoli, R. Nolting, W. Dullard, P. Dullard, A. Wylie and H. G. Barber returned with 20.

Good-Bye and Good Luck: At the close of Evening in St Martin's Church of England the congregation took the opportunity of saying a word of farewell to Mr and Mrs A. J. White who left for Melbourne. Both Mr and Mrs White have been associated with St Martin's all their lives – Mrs White in the choir, also as organist, as a member and officer of the Ladies' Guild; while Mr White, among other activities, has been a member of the Vestry and the Choir. On behalf of the congregation, the Vicar handed Mr and Mrs White a solid silver entrée dish, suitably inscribed.

The Fire Brigade under Capt J. J. Arundell was represented at the North-Western Association's Annual demonstration held at Wycheproof. Charlton was severely handicapped by the absence of such men as G. Burton (on holidays), Alf Clark (owing to an injured leg), S. Arundell and W. Soding, who were not available. Their places had to be filled with recruits. They competed in 5 events but under the circumstances they knew they had no chance.

The Ettamogah Pub Mob



"Viewers ... we bring you the incredible story of an incredible thirst ... this man who hasn't missed a day at the pub in twenty years ... today was trampled by a heard of steers ... kicked by a horse ... run over by a semitrailer .. has incredibly still managed to get here!"

A Night With Dizzy

Birchip Cricket Club had the pleasure of presenting a Sportsman Night with Jason “Dizzy” Gillespie at the Birchip Leisure Centre on Wednesday, February 19.

With a short notice cancellation of an event, Birchip Cricket Club accepted the invitation where 60 attendees listened to an enjoyable night of his experiences within the Australian and International cricket communities.

Jason Gillespie, former Australian cricketer, who played in all three formats of the game debuted for

Australia in the 1996 Test against West Indies. Jason was a right arm fast bowler. His career statistics showed that he played 71 Tests, 97 ODI, 189 First Class, 21 T20s games. Best bowling figures for a Test were 7/37 against England in 4th Test at Leeds in 1997.

Jason spoke about his years being part of the bowling era

with Glenn McGrath and Shane Warne. A highlight of the batting experience was sharing a last wicket stand of 114 against New Zealand in 2004 at the Gabba, with Glenn making 61 and Jason 54 not out.

Highlights

“Mouse” from Mouse Promotions throughout the night

asked Jason questions about highlights from his career. Jason’s most memorable accomplishment was the 2nd Test against Bangladesh at Chittagong in April 2006. Gillespie made 201 not out (26 fours, 2 sixes), setting a world record for the highest individual score by a night-watchman. He made comment that he knew that he had to be at the crease for a very long time, as he had just run out his captain Ricky Ponting on 52.

This was his maiden first class century. He shared a

fourth wicket 320 run partnership with Michael Hussey (182). Jason was awarded Man-of-the-Match and Man of the Series for his 201 runs no and 3/11. This Test was the end of his International cricket career due to injury.

Jason also played for South Australia in the Domestic cricket where he had figures of 8/50 against New South Wales in 2001.

Since retiring Jason has held coaching positions with Zimbabwe (MidWest Rhinos), Indian Premier League (Kings XI Punjab), Yorkshire,

Adelaide Strikers – Big Bash 2015, South Australia and most recently head coach of Pakistan in 2024.

To finalize the night, Q&As were conducted, True or False quiz won by Ken Tierney, memorabilia raffle won by Brad Sharp, and a meat tray raffle won by John Bales, with photos and autographs concluding the night.

Thanks to Riley Doran who quickly organized the event at short notice, Mouse Promotions and Jason “Dizzy” Gillespie for a great night of sporting entertainment.



• Jason Gillespie holding a Q&A.



• Jason Gillespie with Birchip Cricket Club players. Left to right: Will Marks, Kobe Hamilton, Riley Doran, Andrew Sayle, Willow Ryan, River Ryan, Jason Gillespie, Archie Tyler, Oscar Sharp, Lachlan Randall, Jack Knights, Travis Knights, Connor Lee, Hudson McCredden (obscured), James Paley, Amanda Casey, Jonty Randall.

Announcement of Bulk-Billing Investment... “Welcoming, and Concerning”

[From National Rural Health Alliance]

The National Rural Health Alliance (NRHA) welcomes the Federal Government’s announcement of a \$8.5 billion investment to strengthen Medicare, which includes funding for an additional 18 million bulk-billed GP visits per year, nursing scholarships, and increased GP training opportunities.

The increase in bulk billing is positive news for many patients who have found that the Medicare subsidy has no longer paid the cost of medical service delivery, without being out of pocket.

The rebates increase will benefit those living in urban and outer urban areas, especially at a time when they are struggling to pay their bills. NRHA, however, continues to be deeply concerned by the ongoing challenges faced by rural and remote GP or primary care practices that cannot afford to bulk bill services for communities.

“High operational cost of quality healthcare services, and longer and more complex consults due to the comorbidity of rural Australians, result in many rural health services making a loss while trying to meet community needs,” said NRHA Chief Executive Susi Tegen.

“Many rural practices are already experiencing a thin or failed market, making it difficult to cover costs. The newly announced Government measures will do little to change that reality.

“The success of these incentives hinges on having a local workforce and leveraging the economies of scale that urban practices enjoy.

Many communities face severe shortages of doctors, nurses, dentists, and allied health professionals. A multi-pronged approach will ensure equitable access to Medicare.

“NRHA also highlights concerns about the delayed implementation of the bulk-billing changes, set to commence on 1 November—nine months from now, when the average person is still struggling with their mortgage and cost of food.”

With regard to the Government’s generous commitment to nursing scholarships and expanded GP training, NRHA stresses the importance of ensuring these opportunities are directed toward rural communities. “The Minister for Health and Aged Care has pledged a salary incentive for GP registrars, along with study and parental leave.

The Government will also fund additional pre-vocational and vocational training positions in general practice—a welcome move. However, the rural allocation remains unclear. We must see these scholarships prioritising rural students and those willing to practice in regional and remote areas,” Ms Tegen added.

“Scholarships must be backed by infrastructure funding for housing, ensuring

students, trainees, and clinicians have a place to live and accommodate their families. The benefits of such training programs, while positive, will

take many years to materialise. Rural Australians need flexible solutions now. Those delivering services on the ground need support, as the

healthcare access issue needs priority.

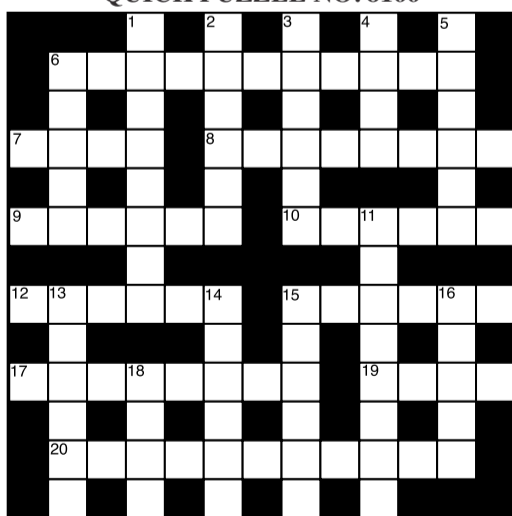
“Until the Government urgently addresses the cost-of-living crisis and in the long-term, supports a comprehensive National Rural Health Strategy with funding, the health of rural communities – and the broader health of our nation – remains at risk.”



• NRHA Chief Executive Susi Tegen.

“Times” Crossword

QUICK PUZZLE NO. 8166



ACROSS

6. Make (11)
7. Jetty (4)
8. Innocuous (8)
9. Keep (6)
10. Gruff (6)
12. Mourn (6)
15. Fix (6)
17. Recommend (8)
19. Metal (4)
20. Disaster (11)

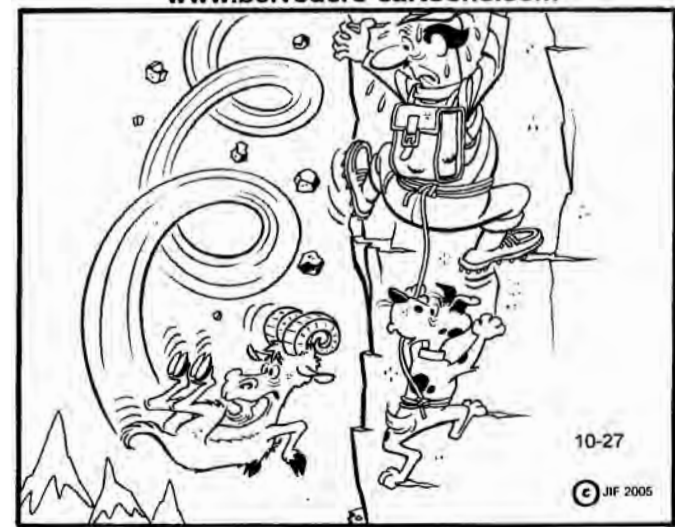
DOWN

1. Grow (8)
2. Hound (6)
3. Burn (6)
4. Tug (4)
5. Against (6)
6. Corn (5)
11. Animal (8)
13. Lessen (6)
14. Pass (6)
15. Wine (6)
16. Depart (5)
18. Curse (4)

• Solution next issue.

MICHAELS OF DONALD

Belvedere By George Crenshaw
www.belvedere-cartoons.com



10-27

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Donald Golf to Challenge St. Arnaud:

In a rematch of North Central Playing Area's second semi-final, St. Arnaud will meet Donald Golf to decide the Division 1 premiership team for the 2024-'25 season.

Donald Golf scored a 20-shot victory over Wycheproof in Saturday's preliminary final, played at Wedderburn, to earn another shot at St. Arnaud and premiership glory.

Division 2 will also see a rematch of the second semi-finalists, after Wedderburn accounted for St. Arnaud Country Club. It will take on defending title holder, Wycheproof, for this season's honours.

Both grand finals will be hosted by the Wycheproof Bowls Club.

Midweek Final

Donald Golf will take on Wycheproof on Tuesday at Boort to decide North Central Playing Area's midweek pennant premiership.

Good luck to all teams competing in this season's grand finals.

Golf Grabs Early Advantage

Hot and blustery conditions greeted bowlers at Wedderburn on Saturday, with the temperature rising to the high 30s by early afternoon, and the wind picking up significantly when play resumed after the luncheon break.

Donald Golf secured a slender lead early in its contest with Wycheproof, and by the completion of 47 ends across the board, when lunch was taken, just 2 shots separated the two, 44 shots to 42.

A momentum shift immediately after lunch saw Peter Hibberd, with Geoff Stopps (lead), Belinda Murray and Stewart Hollis, pick up 4 shots in 2 ends against Jono Grylls, Alan Jones (1) and Jason McKay, to take a 2-shot

lead, while Robert Reseigh, with Merilyn Frank (1), George Geddes and Robert Adams, who had been jumped early by Grant Allan's quartet of Peter Coles (1), Allan Coatsworth and Paul Wellington, and trailed by as much as 11 shots, picked up 4 important shots on the seventeenth end.

Daniel Pettifer's team of Bill Livingston (1), Adrian Humphrey and Geoff Rigby, was the shining light for Golf in the first half, opening up a decisive 15-shot lead on Aaron Mead, with Eric Rayes (1), Brett Macdonald and Dale Groves. The Pettifer combo was able to build on its advantage, including picking up 5 shots on the 18th end to give Golf a handy but not insurmountable buffer.

Whilst feeling the effects of the heat, Pettifer was able to maintain his rink's momentum, despite dropping 4 shots to Mead on the 23rd end, and a further shot on the 24th.

After completing 25 ends, Wycheproof finished 2 shots in front of Golf in the Grylls versus Hibberd rink, the overall margin between the two clubs less than 10 shots.

With two ends to play, one each by the Pettifer v. Mead and Reseigh v. Allan rinks, Golf held a 9-shot lead.

But any potential late surge by Wyche was short circuited by very productive final end by the Golf teams, Pettifer picking by 6 shots, effectively sealing Wycheproof's fate. Not to be outdone, the Reseigh team, which hit the front for the first time on the 24th. end, finished with a haul of 5, and a win by 6 shots.

As a result, the final winning margin favouring Golf had blown out to 20 shots, a result that didn't reflect the

evenness of an intense battle over 75 ends.

Details:
Donald Golf 85 d. Wycheproof 65.
Bill Livingston, Adrian Humphrey, Geoff Rigby, Daniel Pettifer (s) 36 d. Eric Rayes, Brett Macdonald, Dale Groves, Aaron Mead (s) 19.

Merilyn Frank, George Geddes, Robert Adams, Robert Reseigh (s) 30 d. Peter Coles, Allan Coatsworth, Paul Wellington, Grant Allan (s) 24.

Geoff Stopps, Belinda Murray, Stewart Hollis, Peter Hibberd (s) 19 lost to Alan Jones, Jason McKay, Nick Coles, Jono Grylls (s) 22.

Wedderburn Dominates

From start to finish, Wedderburn, making the most of its home green advantage, dominated scoring in its Division 2 preliminary final against St. Arnaud Country Club. And despite a concerted second half effort by Country Club's bowlers across the

three rinks, the final margin of 30 shots in Wedderburn's favour reflected the winner's control throughout.

Lance Standfield's combination of Rob Tonkin (1), Tony Benaim, Leon Holt, scored heavily and often against Phil Elliott's line-up of Gary White (1), Steven Atkinson and Paul Mullins, leading by 10 shots after 15 ends, 16 after 21 ends, and by 21 when the final bowl was delivered.

Ian Hall's quartet that included Stephen Lear (1), Neville White and Allan Noordennen, jumped out of the blocks against Arnold Bond, with Ben Medlyn (1), Kevin Pole and Neil Robinson, to lead by as much as 9 shots, but the Country Club bowlers dug deep to almost get back on level terms, eventually having to concede defeat by just 3 shots.

Wedderburn's John Grant, with Robert Ashley (1), Ruth Hall and Colin Mills, also enjoyed an intense battle for
• Continued on page 15.



• St. Arnaud Country Club's Kevin Meade sends his bowl towards the head, watched by Wedderburn opponent Colin Mills.



• Donald Golf skipper Robert Reseigh contemplates the line of his next delivery, while on the adjoining rink, Golf's Adrian Humphreys and Bill Livingston and Wycheproof's Brett Macdonald watch the progress of the Macdonald bowl towards the head.



• Relieved of his camera duties for the day, Donald Golf skipper Peter Hibberd focuses on his delivery against Wycheproof.



• First year bowler, Donald Golf's Belinda Murray, is a study of concentrations as she delivers her bowl during Saturday's Div. 1 preliminary final.

Division 1 Grand Final This Saturday

• Continued from page 14.

control against Country Club's John Needs, with Don McAllister (l), Chris Webb and Kevin Meade.

Scores were level on a number of occasions, but a strong finish by the Wedderburn combo, which picked up 5 shots over the final two ends, ensured a clean sweep for their club, by a final margin of 30 shots.

Details:

Wedderburn 92 d. St. Arnaud Country Club 62.

Rob Tonkin, Tony Benaim, Leon Holt, Lance Standfield (s) 33 d. Gary White, Steven Atkinson, Paul Mullins, Phil Elliott (s) 12.

Stephen Lear, Neville White, Allan Noordennen, Ian Hall (s) 30 d. Ben Medlyn, Kevin Pole, Neil Robinson, Arnold Bond (s) 27.

Robert Ashley, Ruth Hall, Colin Mills, John Grant (s) 29 d. Don McAllister, Chris Webb, Kevin Meade, John Needs (s) 23.



• Among those keeping score Bob Montebello (left) company during Saturday's North Central pennant preliminary finals were St. Arnaud's Phil McRae, Thomas Amos, Greg McNally, Anne McNally and Kerryn Dyke, St. Arnaud having already qualified for the Division 1 grand final, and several of its team members keen to check out next Saturday's opposition.



• St. Arnaud Country Club's Don McAllister lines up his bowl during Saturday's Div 2 preliminary final. Looking on from the bank are Country Club's Neil Robinson, Wedderburn's Stephen Lear and Alan Noordennen.



• Wycheproof skipper Jono Grylls prepares to bowl.



• Wedderburn's Leon Holt delivers his bowl, with team mate Tony Benaim casting a discerning eye over his bowling style.



• Wycheproof's Nick Coles delivers his bowl, while Donald Golf's Stewart Hollis loads his missile into his bowling arm.

Joyce and Belinda Win Ladies' Pairs

Donald Golf Bowls Club's ladies' pairs championship was decided recently, between the combinations of Joyce Hollis and Belinda Murray versus Sue Donnellon and Brenda Dixon.

After a tight match, scores were level going into the final end, with Joyce and Belinda winning the last end to take the title.

Well done to all players.

Donald Golf Into Grand Final

Donald Golf's Division 1 bowlers earned the right to take on St Arnaud in next

Saturday's Pennant final when they defeated a gallant Wycheproof 85 shots to 65.

Daniel Pettifer's rink hit the front on end 6 and never looked back to beat Aaron Mead's rink 36-19. Robert Reseigh's team came from behind to overcome Grant Allan's charges 30-24, after picking up 13 shots in the last 5 ends. "Stumpy's" crew, after leading for most of the game, lost the lead on end 22 to eventually lose 19-22.

Very well done to Golf bowlers and best of luck in the final.

The club's mid-week pennant team is also in the grand final tomorrow, so it would be great to win the elusive double.

E-Mailers!

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



• Pairs winners, Joyce Hollis (left) and Belinda Murray.



North-Central Football Season Starts April 5

- Round 1, April 5 —**
Sea Lake-Nandaly v. Wedderburn
Donald v. Calder United
Charlton v. Birchip-Watchem
St Arnaud v. Boort
- Round 2, April 12 —**
Calder United v. Sea Lake-Nandaly
Birchip-Watchem v. Donald
Boort v. Charlton
Wedderburn v. St Arnaud
- Saturday, April 19 —**
League bye for Easter.
- Round 3, April 26 —**
Sea Lake-Nandaly v. Birchip-Watchem
Donald v. Boort
Charlton v. St Arnaud
Calder United v. Wedderburn
- Round 4, May 3 —**
Boort v. Sea Lake-Nandaly
St Arnaud v. Donald
Wedderburn v. Charlton
Birchip-Watchem v. Calder United
- Round 5, May 10 —**
Sea Lake-Nandaly v. St Arnaud
Donald v. Charlton
Birchip-Watchem v. Wedderburn
Calder United v. Boort
- Saturday, May 17 —**
League bye for hockey.
- Round 6, May 24 —**
Charlton v. Sea Lake-Nandaly
Donald v. Wedderburn
St Arnaud v. Calder United
Boort v. Birchip-Watchem
- Round 7, May 31 —**
Sea Lake-Nandaly v. Donald
Calder United v. Charlton
Birchip-Watchem v. St Arnaud
Wedderburn v. Boort
- Saturday, June 7 —**
League bye for Kings Birthday.
- Round 8, June 14 —**
Wedderburn v. Sea Lake-Nandaly
Calder United v. Donald
Birchip-Watchem v. Charlton
Boort v. St Arnaud
- Round 9, June 21 —**
Sea Lake-Nandaly v. Calder United
Donald v. Birchip-Watchem
Charlton v. Boort
St Arnaud v. Wedderburn

- Round 10, June 28 —**
Birchip-Watchem v. Sea Lake-Nandaly
Boort v. Donald
St Arnaud v. Charlton
Wedderburn v. Calder United
- Round 11, July 5 —**
Sea Lake-Nandaly v. Boort
Donald v. St Arnaud
Charlton v. Wedderburn
Calder United v. Birchip-Watchem
- Saturday, July 12 —**
League bye for school holidays.
- Round 12, July 19 —**
St Arnaud v. Sea Lake-Nandaly
Charlton v. Donald
Wedderburn v. Birchip-Watchem
Boort v. Calder United
- Round 13, July 26 —**
Sea Lake-Nandaly v. Charlton
Wedderburn v. Donald
Calder United v. St Arnaud
Birchip-Watchem v. Boort
- Round 14, August 2 —**
Donald v. Sea Lake-Nandaly
Charlton v. Calder United
St Arnaud v. Birchip-Watchem
Boort v. Wedderburn
- Round 15, August 9 —**
Sea Lake-Nandaly v. Wedderburn
Donald v. Calder United
Charlton v. Birchip-Watchem
St Arnaud v. Boort
- Round 16, August 16 —**
Calder United v. Sea Lake-Nandaly
Birchip-Watchem v. Donald
Boort v. Charlton
Wedderburn v. St Arnaud
- Saturday, August 23 —**
First Semi-final
- Saturday, August 30 —**
Second Semi-final
- Saturday, September 6 —**
Preliminary final
- Saturday, September 13 —**
Grand final



• Gold Cup: Kate Patrick (president) Lindsay Patullo and Lachlan Berryman (Tournament Manager).

Croquet Success for Charlton Players

Although the Croquet Club had a couple of weeks break in December and January, it did not mean all members took a break.

From December 27 to 29, Lindsay Patullo partnered Lachlan Berryman (MCC) in the Victorian Croquet Association (VCA) doubles played at Cairnlea and finished third. Immediately afterwards Lindsay competed in VCA Open Singles and finished fourth.

On February 14 and 15, Lindsay participated in the VCA Gold Cup event for the first time. Lindsay finished runner-up with 6 wins, net 80 hoops; the winner won 6 games, but finished with net 95 hoops. Lindsay's only loss was to the winner. Lindsay has been selected in the Victorian State team to play in the Eire Cup from March 12 - 16 in Adelaide.

Naomi Patullo played in the Victorian Bronze Medal at Cairnlea on January 18 and 19. Naomi defeated Barb Dalrymple in Charlton's Section 3 championship.

The Golf Croquet Championships are currently being played.



• Naomi Patullo.

Cricket Finals

With the home-and-away season now complete, the semi-final matches for this coming Saturday are:

"A" Grade

Donald-Jeffcott v. St Mary's at Jeffcott Cricket Ground
Marnoo v. Birchip at Marnoo Cricket Ground

"B" Grade

Donald-Jeffcott v. Southern Mallee Giants at Goff Letts Oval (Donald)
Charlton v. Watchem at Charlton



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	"A" Grade					Pts
	P	W	L	D	Bye	
Donald Jeffcott	15	12	1	0	0	43
Marnoo	14	9	3	0	0	33
Birchip	14	7	5	0	0	29
St Mary's	15	6	7	0	0	21
St. Arnaud	15	4	9	0	0	17
Southern Mallee.....	15	0	12	0	0	3

	"B" Grade					Pts
	P	W	L	D	Bye	
Donald Jeffcott	15	11	2	0	0	39
Charlton	15	10	3	0	0	37
Watchem	15	9	4	0	0	35
Southern Mallee	15	3	7	0	0	17
St. Mary's	15	3	8	0	0	17
Birchip	15	0	8	0	0	5