

**DONALD**

Phone: 5497 1222  
 Articles to:  
 news@buloketimes.com  
 Adverts to:  
 admin@buloketimes.com

# The Buloke Times

Est. 1875

**BIRCHIP**

Phone: 5492 2735  
 Fax: 5492 2863  
 Email:  
 birchipblc@  
 bigpond.com

Published Tuesdays and Fridays

PP331336/0000 1

Tuesday, January 21, 2025

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

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

## No Stopping These Veterans



• *Hamilton Veterans. Back row, left to right: Chris Lehmann, Dave Spencer, Neil Blizzard, Phil Clapham, Allan Huf, Geoff Barker, Darren Groves. Front, left to right: Ray Robinson, Gavin Kearney, Mark Ross, Craig Marrow, Terry Croton, Chris Hutchins.*



• *Vic Country Veterans. Back row, left to right: Jim Geltch, Peter Scullie, Ned Raven, Greg Bailey, Peter Lawford, Trevor Sing. Front, left to right: John Thomas, David Wilson, Russell Bott, Tim Spear, Shane Noonan, David Letts. Absent from photo, Barry Hopper.*

**It was a hot summer's day; most of the cricketers were into their sixties, but they still provided a keen competitive and entertaining match between 10.30 a.m. and 4 p.m. on Sunday at the Jeffcott oval in Donald.**

The Vic Country Veterans were drawn from Bendigo, Echuca, Kerang, Rochester, Donald, St. Arnaud, Horsham and Mildura.

As their name would suggest, the Hamilton Veterans were from the Hamilton district.

Batting first, and with a restricted number of overs per player, Vic Country was all out for 144, top scorers being Russell Bott 31 retired not out, Shane Noonan 23, David Letts 21 retired not out, Barry Hopper 21, and Greg Bailey 19.

Wicket-takers for Hamilton were Geoff Barker 3/14, Gavin Keaney 2/11, Craig Marrow 1/21.

In reply, Hamilton produced an impressive winning lineup, with six players reaching double figures in a total of 4/150. Those retiring not out were Darren Groves 33, Craig Marrow 32, Neil Blizzard 25, Geoff Barker 15, and Chris Hutchins 10. Dave Spencer also scored 10.

Vic Country wicket-takers were John Thomas 1/25, Trevor Sing 1/23, David Letts 1/22, and David Wilson 1/7.

Officiating at Sunday's game was Wimmera Mallee Association umpire Daryl Broughton.

# Slothful Scene at Watchem Lake

Watchem locals were delighted and bemused as a new resident, Pete, paddled his way around the entirety of Watchem Lake — on an inflatable sloth.

Pete, who recently moved to Watchem from Melbourne to work at the local lentil farm as a machinist, decided to make his debut in the community with a unique aquatic adventure.

Armed with nothing but an oversized inflatable sloth and using only his hands to paddle, he spent hours navigating the tranquil waters of the lake, drawing the attention of locals and wildlife alike.

What made his journey even more remarkable was the support he received from an unexpected entourage of ducks. As he paddled, dozens of ducks surrounded him, quacking curiously and accompanying him for part of his journey.

“I became one with the ducks,” Pete said with a grin. “We really connected. It felt like I’d made some proper friends on the lake.”

The spectacle sparked excitement among Watchem residents, many of whom stopped to wave, snap photos, and cheer him on. One local, Gloria, called it “the most wholesome thing I’ve seen in years.”

Pete promises more escapades in the future, hinting at a “koala float” next time.

For now, Watchem has gained not just a new resident, but a new story that will be told fondly for years to come.



• Watchem’s newcomer, Pete, relaxing on an inflatable Sloth on Watchem Lake.

# Donald’s Learning Group Shares Food Relief Grants

Communities facing food insecurity will have increased access to healthy food thanks to grants awarded through the State Government’s Community Food Relief program.

Member for Northern Victoria Jaclyn Symes announced grants in Northern Victoria to help communities in need. Community organisations and neighbourhood houses will receive up to \$50,000 for individual projects and up to \$75,000 for partnership projects to distribute fresh food and pantry staples.

The \$4.5 million Community Food Relief Program includes Local Grants announced, and Co-ordination Grants announced in October, helping to respond to the rising demand for food relief amid cost-of-living pressures experienced by individuals and families.

Grants will boost the capacity of local community organisations to provide food relief, through expanding food relief activities, facility upgrades, support and upskilling of volunteers and delivering initiatives that

address the underlying causes of food insecurity.

## Recipients

Grant recipients in Mildura include:

- Donald Learning Group has received \$24,724 to purchase additional food and gift cards for use at local butcher and supermarkets. It also includes upgraded freezer and equipment to enhance safety and efficiency for food pantry and hampers programs.

- Sunraysia Mallee Ethnic Communities Council (SMECC) has received \$32,500 to expand culturally-appropriate food relief services across Mildura and into Swan Hill LGA, including additional food relief packages and grocery gift cards for locally-owned ethnic stores, engaging new volunteers and empowering community members with practical skills.

Since 2020, the State Government has invested



• Jaclyn Symes

more than \$56 million to strengthen Victoria’s food relief system, including support for six Regional Foodshares.

In addition, \$3.3 million in operational funding is provided to Foodbank Victoria each year, as well as \$10 million to support the establishment of Foodbank’s community food centres in Morwell and Ballarat.

## Letter to the Editor

### Salvos Christmas Thank You Letter

(The Editor, “The Times”)

Dear Editor.— With the start of a new year, 2025 offers us a chance to reflect on the year that has passed, and also look forward to the new beginnings offered in the year ahead.

For The Salvos, looking back on 2024 means reflecting on the one person every seventeen seconds that we helped throughout the year. It is a privilege to stand alongside Aussies doing it tough and provide them with support and hope.

It also means reflecting on the generosity of you, the Australian public, who help make this vital work possible. So, from all of us at The Salvation Army, and on behalf of all those we support every day, to the Australian public we say thank you.

Thank you particularly for your generosity towards our Christmas Appeal, which helped provide a special Christmas to those who would have otherwise gone without.

If it wasn’t for your support, kids would have gone without presents under the tree, families without a special Christmas meal and many without hope and joy during the festive season. For this, we say thank you.

Now, as we look towards 2025, The Salvation Army wants to make an encouragement to those around the country.

While some Australians were in the position to give to The Salvos during Christmas, many others found it to be one

of the most financially crippling times of the year, particularly as our nation faces a cost-of-living crisis.

To anyone who found themselves in that position, and now may be facing debt, financial hardship or stress about money, we want to let you know that there is hope at the start of this year.

The Salvos Moneycare service offers free and confidential financial counselling to thousands of Aussies each year, helping them to get on top of their finances. There is no better time than the start of a new year to take a fresh look at your finances and get on top of your financial situation.

We encourage all Australians to take a look at their finances this year, and if you



are struggling to cope financially, please reach out to The Salvation Army’s Moneycare service. We are here for you, and there is no shame in reaching out for support.

Please don’t wait until it is too late. Reach out to Moneycare today by visiting [salvationarmy.org.au/moneycare](http://salvationarmy.org.au/moneycare) or call 1800 722 363.

**Colonel Rodney Walters.**  
The Salvation Army

## A Big Surprise

(By Lorna Hurst)

**A recent news item about an escaped elephant in a street in the USA reminded me of a local elephant story.**

About ninety years ago, my father, Arch Dunstan, was driving myself, aged ten, and my younger sisters to the Jeffcott North School from the farm. We were in a horse and gig.

As we came down the road, we were astounded to see of all things, an elephant standing in the road with its head over the fence eating the crop.

The horse became frozen to the spot when it saw the elephant and stood there quivering in fright.

My dad gently managed to turn the horse and gig away from the elephant. Luckily, it

did not bolt. Then we were passed by a giant truck from Wirths Circus, who had been in Donald that night. Three keepers got out the truck and proceeded to encourage the elephant to get on board, which it obligingly did.

We last saw it driving to Charlton with the top of the elephant’s head visibly poking up in the air.

It turned out the elephant had escaped in the night and walked all the way to Jeffcott before it was apprehended, leaving behind three amazed children, and one equally stunned horse.

## Police Beat

### Gannawarra

**Impound:** On Thursday, the 2nd of January, police located a vehicle parked in William Street, Cohuna. The black sedan was found to bear fraudulent number plates. The vehicle was impounded.

**Theft from caravan:** Between 12 midnight Christmas Eve and 2 p.m. New Year’s Eve, offenders have forced entry to a caravan parked off King George Street Cohuna. Offenders have stolen a 12 volt TV.

**Assaults:** Cohuna Police are investigating a series of assaults that have occurred over the past few days.

**Motorcycle theft:** Between 11.30 a.m. on Friday the 3rd of January and 2.30 p.m. that same day, a red Honda quad bike was stolen from a property on the Boort-Kerang Road in Dingwall. The bike had a spray unit on the back at the time of the theft.

**Burglary:** Between December 22 and 31, offenders have forced entry to a sporting complex in the Wandella area. It appears at this stage

that nothing was taken from the premises.

**Burglary:** Between 5 p.m. Wednesday January the 1st, and 11 a.m. on the 3rd, offenders have entered a shed at a property in Myall and stolen a fuel trailer and fuel from a tractor.

**Theft:** Overnight on Friday the 3rd of January, offenders have attended the Koondrook boat ramp area and stolen 2 stroke fuel, rigging gear and a tackle box. It appears that there have been several thefts and damages in the area around the same time, although not all have been reported to police. Stolen fuel cans were located in Gunbower forest. Anyone who has been the victim of theft or damage and has not reported to police, please do so.

**Bicycle theft:** A bicycle was stolen from the front yard of a home in Grigg Road Koondrook between December 30 and January 3. Nil further description.

### Swan Hill

**Burglary:** Between 11 a.m. Saturday January 4th and 8.30 a.m. the following day, a

Stihl blower/vac has been stolen from the rear of a ute parked at an address in Splatt Street, Swan Hill. A Honda whipper snipper was stolen from a back shed.

### Robinvale

**House fire:** In the evening of Sunday the 5th of January, a fire has started at a home in Cuttle Court Robinvale. CFA and police attended the scene. The occupants escaped the home with one male currently being treated for burns and smoke inhalation. The home was destroyed. The cause is under investigation.

**Theft:** On New Year’s Eve, a 40-year-old male has attended an address in Cleary Drive, Robinvale, and stolen a golf club from a vehicle parked at the address. On arrest the male made threats of harm to police. He was charged and later bailed to attend court at a later date.

### Buloke

**Theft from motor vehicles:** In the early hours of Friday, the 3rd of January, offenders have gained entry to numerous vehicles in the Wyche-proof township.

# Bushfires Burn in Tourist Season: Opposition Leader Visits Halls Gap

**Mallee business owners under persistent threat of bushfire told Leader of the Opposition Peter Dutton they cannot secure the insurance they need to protect their livelihoods, after his visit organised by Member for Mallee, Dr Anne Webster.**

Mr Dutton, also called on the Victorian Labor Government to lift its game and seek federal disaster recovery funding assistance, after meeting with fire-affected Halls Gap community members on Wednesday alongside Dr. Webster, Shadow Minister for Emergency Management Senator Perin Davey, and Shadow Minister for Immigration and Member for Wannon, Dan Tehan.

Dr Webster echoed Mr Dutton's calls for Australians to return to Halls Gap in droves to help local businesses recover.

"Words fail me again to describe the heartache and devastation of bushfire in the Grampians, struck twice in twelve months by natural disaster", Dr Webster said. "I invited the Leader of the Opposition Peter Dutton to visit the Halls Gap community on Wednesday to offer support, and two key things we all heard about were businesses' desperate financial situation and the failure of the insurance market to protect them."

## Homes Destroyed

The previous fires in February at nearby Pomonal and Dadswells Bridge destroyed 45 Pomonal homes in their community of 300, costing the local economy an estimated \$200 million and hundreds of thousands of tourists. Insurance premiums rose locally as a result.

On December 17, dry lightning started a fire which burned for three weeks near the 450-strong community of Halls Gap. The fire burned 76,000 hectares, destroying four homes in Moyston and

Mafeking, 40 outbuildings and 540 kilometres of fencing. The fire also burned 10,053 hectares of pasture, 1285 beehives and killed 775 sheep – not to mention the incalculable cost to flora and fauna.

## Strong Message

"The strong message Peter Dutton, my shadow ministerial colleagues and I received at Halls Gap was that the fire struck during the year's prime tourist season, said Dr. Webster. I walked the empty streets of Halls Gap just after Christmas, with the community shut down due to the fire threat. Small businesses missed their busiest trading period over summer; it was a ghost town. I understand tourism numbers were already down 20 per cent from February's fires at nearby Dadswell's Bridge and Pomonal, before the December fires.

"Tourism operators earn between a quarter and a third of their annual income during the lost three-week period in December-January, with businesses collectively losing an estimated \$1.9 million per day."

Under the Emergency Management arrangements reformed by the former Coalition government the 2019/20 bushfire season, the Federal Government as of January 5 had granted 43 local "Category A" disaster recovery allowance claims, paying out \$15,000 with individuals and businesses having until June 23 to lodge their claims. However, three larger Category B, C and D assistance packages rely on the Victorian Government to ask for help.



• Dr Anne Webster.

"As of yesterday, to their shame, the Victorian Government had not requested that Federal assistance a repeat of their tardiness after February's fires," Dr Webster said.

"Insurance costs for some Halls Gap businesses have almost quadrupled since the Pomonal fires, and I fear that both the Halls Gap and Los Angeles bushfires will further harm the global insurance pool and drive premiums up further. But worse still, most Halls Gap businesses tell me they cannot secure insurance at all.

"Already under the Albanese Labor Government insurance costs have risen 18 per cent and I am working with locals and the insurance industry to find solutions. I am pleased to say that Peter Dutton committed to speaking to the Prime Minister and to consider policy to fix this situation. Insurance companies should have an obligation to provide insurance, or businesses simply will pack up and leave."

Dr Webster also joined Mr Dutton and Coalition colleagues in Pomonal on Wednesday afternoon to thank CFA volunteers for their life-saving efforts.

# The Rex is Back for '25

**The Rex is pleased to be welcoming patrons back for 2025 with movies to suit all tastes.**

This weekend's screening is "We Live in Time", an emotionally charged exploration of love, time, and the complexities of human connection. Director John Crowley crafts a poignant narrative where the passing of time isn't just a backdrop – it's a force that shapes every relationship.

Starring the charismatic Andrew Garfield (Tobias) and the talented Florence Pugh (Almut), when Almut faces a life-altering medical diagnosis – with treatment options that may or may not be effective – the question arises should she risk spending precious time on treatments, or embrace what remains of her life to the fullest?

This bitter-sweet romance blends rich dialogue with quiet, intimate moments, creating an atmosphere that feels both timeless and contemporary.

In a movie which combines fun moments with the serious, the emotional depth it achieves makes each moment feel earned. The cinematography elegantly mirrors the themes of the story, highlighting the fragility of time and the tension between desire and commitment.

"We Live in Time" isn't just a love story; it's a meditation on what we lose – and what we gain – when we commit to someone, or something. It's a film that will linger in your mind long after the credits roll. Highly recommended for those who crave thought-provoking, heartfelt cinema.

"We Live in Time" (M 108 minutes) screens at The Rex – Saturday 25 January 8pm | Sunday 26 January 2pm | Tuesday 28 January 8pm.

## Coming In March

The Rex will welcome back the Lyster Opera Com-

pany, with their production of Mozart's "The Abduction from the Seraglio" on Saturday, March 29, at 2 p.m..

Those who attended the Company's debut performance at The Rex in 2024 can, again, look forward to an afternoon of sublime singing and musical excellence, coupled with plenty of lighthearted fun in a story with many twists and turns.

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

For bookings: 0410 890 388 | lysteropera.com.au See more details – rextheatre.org.au/live-shows

All details are on The Rex website – Rex Theatre Charlton | Live Shows – and bookings can be made at lysteropera.com.au or 0410 890 388.

# Charlton Probians Meet



• Left to right: Denise Winsall and Di Field.

**The Charlton Probians Club held its first meeting for 2025 on Friday, January 10.**

The thirty-six members present were wished a Happy New Year. Graham Curnow entertained the group with his rendition of "The Cattle Dog's Revenge". "Happy Birthday" was sung to Denise Winsall and Di Field.

The guest speaker was Bill Freeman who spoke about wills. Some of the topics Bill mentioned were: revoking a will, appointing executors, joint tenants and tenants in common, letters of administration, intestacy, granting of Probate, Medical Power of Attorney and Financial Power of Attorney. Bill then answered questions. Thanks to Bill for filling in on short notice and reminding us that when we have a valid will, we give ourselves the best chance of making sure our assets go where we want them to go.

# Potholes for All Seasons Campaign

**Victorians are being encouraged to highlight the worst potholes in the state through a new campaign to apply more pressure on the State Government to fix our appalling roads.**

The Nationals and Liberals have launched a statewide photo competition, with the best (or worst) potholes to feature in a 2025 "Potholes for All Seasons" Calendar that will be presented to Premier Jacinta Allan and Roads and Road Safety Minister Melissa Horne.

Victorians are invited to submit photos of potholes or road damage they believe require urgent attention to <http://www.potholepics.com>

The Nationals' Member for Mildura, Jade Benham, said Victoria's roads have been going backwards for years after successive road maintenance budget cuts under Labor.

"Victorians know our roads are in a deplorable state and they are angry about it," Ms Benham said.

"It is time to put pressure on the government to act on maintaining our roads.

"This year's road maintenance budget is 16 per cent less than it was four years ago and this government's own survey last year found 91 per cent of roads reviewed were in a poor or very poor state.

"This is a disastrous state of affairs because the lack of maintenance will just mean more potholes and damaged roads will appear in future," Ms Benham said.



• Jade Benham.

Ms Benham encouraged motorists to only take photos of roads where they can do so safely, and without putting other road users at risk.

# A Call To Reverse Skills Funding Cuts

**As Victoria scrambles to address skills shortages across sectors as diverse as construction and healthcare, the State Government has made another callous cut to crucial training funding.**

Vital Skills First funding has been slashed from Registered Training Organisations (RTOs) with the axing of the 10 per cent funding premium set aside for students to undertake online learning.

Skills First funding enables RTOs to deliver subsidised courses and skill sets in areas where demand for jobs is high. It also includes additional funding for delivery in regional areas.

This follows last year's decision by the Allan Labor Government to slash training

allocations to hundreds of RTOs across Victoria by 35 per cent, despite ongoing skill shortages.

"The government's brutal funding cuts will have devastating and far-reaching consequences for RTOs, their staff and their students," Nationals' MP for Mildura, Jade Benham said.

"The Minister for Skills and Training must reinstate this critical funding. Cuts to programs like Skills First, while we face critical short-

ages in so many regional sectors, show just how out of touch this government is.

"These cuts are hurting regional and rural students who simply don't have access to the same training services as their city counterparts. These subsidies are critical to supporting regional employment pathways.

"This is just another consequence of the Labor Government's financial mismanagement and cost cutting, and regional Victorians are paying the price."

# "Times" Classifieds

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



## 60<sup>TH</sup> WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

Friends are invited to celebrate with *Ian and Alison McEwen* 8 Sproats Lane, Donald **Sun., January 26, 2025** for afternoon tea.  
*No gifts thank-you.*

## DEATH GILES.-

Robert James "Bob" Born October 23, 1933 at Donald. Died December 28, 2024 at Adelaide.

Deepest sympathy to Leslie, Glenn, Andrew, and Bretton & families on your sad loss.

- *Bill Anderson and family.*

## DEATH HALL (Rowbottom).-

Jennifer Dorothy Eileen 10/6/1942 - 13/1/2025

Loving mother and mother-in-law to Dean and Joanne. Glen and Cathy. Loving sister and sister-in-law to Joan (dec.) and Jimmy. Loved aunty to the Hepworth kids, grandmother to seven, great-grandmother to two.

*Rest in Peace Jenny*

## DEATH HILL (Pyers).-

Margery Dawn 17/2/1932 - 10/1/2025 Of Donald.

Dearly loved wife of Bill (dec.). Loving mother to Richard & Christine; Greg & Jacqui; William & Terry. Proud Nana Marge to Peter, Brittany, Taylah; Jessica, Matthew; Emma and Sophie.

*Enjoy Your Beer With Bill.*

## DEATH LARMOUR.-

William Alexander Passed at Longview, Buckrabanyule aged 76, doing what he loved.

Loved husband of Rosie. Brother of Marjorie and Keith.

Father and father-in-law of Christopher, Alister & Caryn and Lachlan.

*Now resting peacefully forever.*



## DEATH LARMOUR.-

William "Bill" (2990504) Member of Buckrabanyule Fire Brigade.

The Captain and members of Buckrabanyule regret the sudden passing of our colleague.

A former Lieutenant and member for 60 years. Our deepest sympathies go out to his family.



## DEATH LARMOUR.-

William "Bill" 2990504 Member of Buckrabanyule Fire Brigade.

The Chairman, Board, Management and members of CFA regret the passing of their colleague and offer their deepest sympathy to his family.

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

## FUNERAL HILL.-

A graveside service for Mrs. Margery Hill was held at the Donald Lawn Cemetery on Thursday, January 16, 2025.

KELL FUNERALS ST. ARNAUD 5495 1043 NFDA EST. 1860

## WANTED TO BUY POULTRY

Roosters, ducks and geese. Ph. 0407 515 528.

## THANK YOU

We will be forever grateful to the amazing people who attended the fire on our property at Laen East, Friday December 20th. Thanks to the quick response and action of the Laen East, Donald CFA, David Manifold, Robbo, all attending CFA units and our neighbours and friends, the house on our property was protected and saved.

- *Des, Kerry, Scott, Lisa and Caitlyn Wood*

## Are You a Woman Who Loves to Travel?

Are you sick of doing the same thing every day? Why not join me travelling around Australia! I have a truck, large caravan and a car. You will be required to drive the car sometimes. Would suit an easy-going lady with a good sense of humour, and a love for life. Genuine ladies only, call Charlie on 0412 554 403. No texting please.

## To call the Fire Brigade Ring



## Marnoo old timers

are having a cricket reunion in **March or April 2025.**

We would like to invite any former players from the 1970's or later, who are interested in coming to contact Chris Marshall on 0408723320 or via email [chrisso.marsh@gmail.com](mailto:chrisso.marsh@gmail.com)

## Law Notice

### ESTATE OF AMALIE NUSKE (DECEASED)

CLH Lawyers are seeking to contact any beneficiary or descendant of Amalie Nuske, formerly the registered owner of 4 Bishop Street, Nandaly, Victoria, 3533. Please contact CLH Lawyers, Level 2, 577 Little Bourke Street, Melbourne, Victoria, 3000, 03 9628 2801, [mcc@clhlawyers.com.au](mailto:mcc@clhlawyers.com.au) within 7 days, quoting reference no. 1857945.



## SOLICITOR

116 Napier Street, St. Arnaud  
Experienced practical advice in plain English  
Appointments also available in Chariton, Donald and Wycheproof  
**Ph. 5495 2595**  
[Karen@klp.net.au](mailto:Karen@klp.net.au)

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

- January 23, Pamela Barber
- Jan. 23, Con Nieuwboer
- Jan. 25, Ace Hawkes (4)
- Jan. 26, Declan O'Shea

**Darrell Lea** Fine Chocolates **JOHN SANDS**

If you know someone celebrating a special anniversary, let us know at **Donald Newsagency & Emporium**  
For all your Greeting Cards, Wraps, Ribbons and Stationery needs.  
**37 Woods Street, Donald. 'Phone 54971510.**

REX THEATRE CHARLTON 30-34 High St. Charlton 03 5491 2333 [boxoffice@rextheatre.org.au](mailto:boxoffice@rextheatre.org.au) [rextheatre.org.au](http://rextheatre.org.au)

**COMING ATTRACTIONS**

**WE LIVE IN TIME**  
M 108 mins | Drama | Romance  
**Sat 25 Jan 8pm**  
**Sun 26 Jan 2pm**  
**Tue 28 Jan 8pm**

COMING: **MUFASA: THE LION KING** PG 118 mins | Adventure

**Abduction from the Seraglio**  
LYSTER OPERA presents  
The ABDUCTION from the SERAGLIO  
Saturday **MARCH 29 2pm**  
Bookings: 0410 890 288 / [lysteropera.com.au](http://lysteropera.com.au)

**REEVES EARTHMOVING**

Office: 03 5494 3120  
Mike: 0408 316 394  
Brendan: 0427 794 479  
Nathan: 0409 525 805

For all Earthmoving works including:

- Shed pads, sheep yards, house pads
- Dam construction and fill in, channel fill in
- Driveways and roads
- Supply and Delivery of gravel, sands and quarry materials.



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

# Mensland

OUTFITTING MEN SINCE 1959

## NOW IN STOCK

Ladies Boots in PURPLE



Priced from **\$229.00**



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

For Promotions, Specials and Competitions,  us on Facebook **Find us on** 

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

**Donald Australia Day Celebrations**  
**Sunday 26th January 2025**  
*Donald Memorial Park*

**FROM 10AM**  
**Backyard Cricket Match**

**FROM 11AM**  
**GUEST SPEAKER Tony Phillips**  
**AWARD PRESENTATIONS**  
*Citizen of the Year Event of the Year*  
*Junior Citizen of the Year*

**Awards presented by Jade Benham MP**

TO CELEBRATE OUR MULTI CULTURAL COMMUNITY  
 WE INVITE PEOPLE TO DRESS IN TRADITIONAL COSTUME

BYO chair

**Lions BBQ**  
**Provided by BULOKE SHIRE COUNCIL**




**R. & L. DOUGLAS EARTHMOVING**

**BULLDOZER WORKING IN THE DONALD AREA**

- Filling in dams channels
- Digging new dams
- Shed pads
- Farm clean ups.



**For all your earthmoving needs**  
**CALL ROSS 0447 883 111**

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



**100%**  
 of wind farm decommissioning is paid for by the project owner

The cost of decommissioning is 100% the wind farm owner's responsibility. This is a requirement of all development permit conditions.

We also include conditions in our commercial lease agreements with landholders so it's clear landholders are not held liable for removing the turbines or other infrastructure.

Landholders can have confidence that decommissioning funds will be available when the wind farm comes to its end of operations.



Learn more about decommissioning wind farms on our website.

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



# Game Bird Harvest Report is Available

The Game Management Authority (GMA) has released the Estimates of Duck and Stubble Quail Harvest in Victoria 2024 report.

Results show an estimated 391,900 game ducks were harvested in 2024, which is 22 per cent above the long-term average of 320,000.

Of the 21,383 licensed duck hunters, 60 per cent actively hunted in 2024. On average, active duck hunters harvested an estimated 30.3 ducks during the season over an average of 8.9 days.

The three most commonly harvested species were the Pacific Black Duck (39 per cent of the total harvest), Grey Teal (25 per cent of the total harvest) and Australian Wood Duck (24 per cent of the total harvest).

### Most Popular

The most popular hunting areas, with the highest numbers of ducks harvested, were around the towns of Sale, Kerang, Boort, Horsham, and Shepparton.

Results also show an estimated 457,400 Stubble Quail were harvested in 2024. This is almost triple the long-term average of 159,000 and is the second largest Stubble Quail harvest since telephone surveys began in 2009.

Of the 25,788 hunters licenced to hunt Stubble Quail, 22 per cent actively hunted in 2024. On average, active quail hunters harvested an estimated 79.4 Stubble Quail for the season over 8.5 days.

The most popular quail hunting areas were around the towns of Shepparton, Echuca, Rochester, Ballarat and Colac. The highest number of quail harvested were around the towns of Shepparton, Ballarat, Echuca, Rochester and Wangaratta.

GMA Director of Strategy and Research, Simon Toop, said the research was based on information gathered from randomly selected licenced game bird hunters who voluntarily participated in the surveys.

"Favourable environmental and breeding conditions and more active hunters likely

resulted in an increase in the number of ducks and quail harvested," Mr Toop said.

"The information hunters provide helps build a stronger understanding of gamebird harvest trends and hunting activity in Victoria and I'd like to thank all hunters who participated in the surveys."

### Unofficial

Throughout 2024, approximately 3,458 licenced game

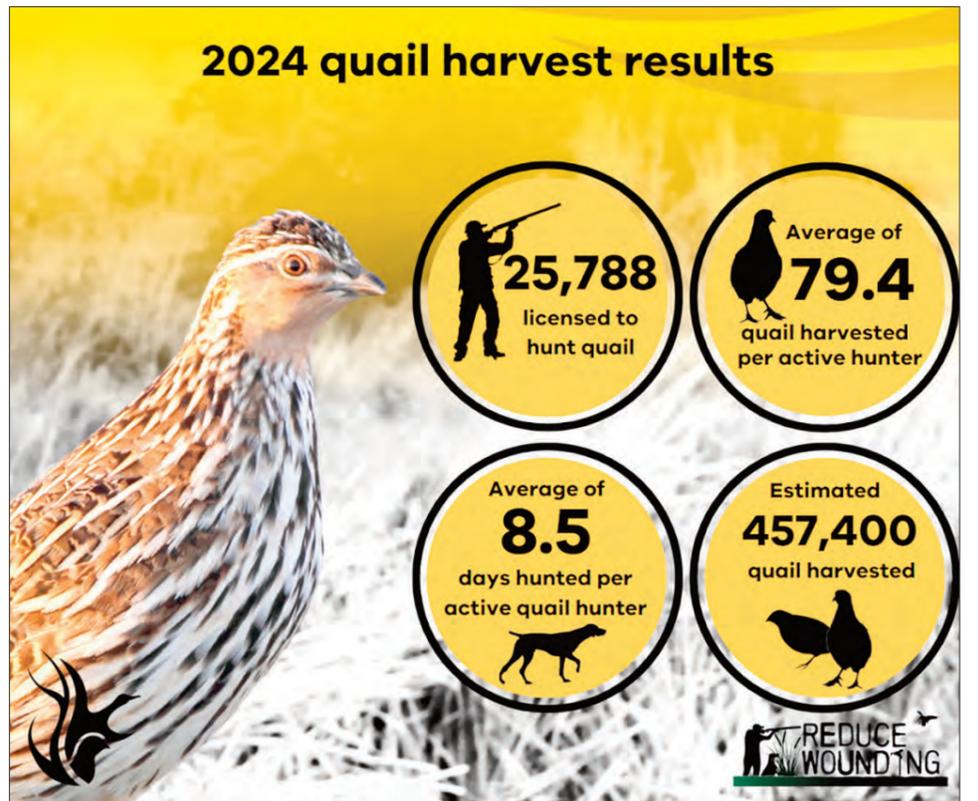
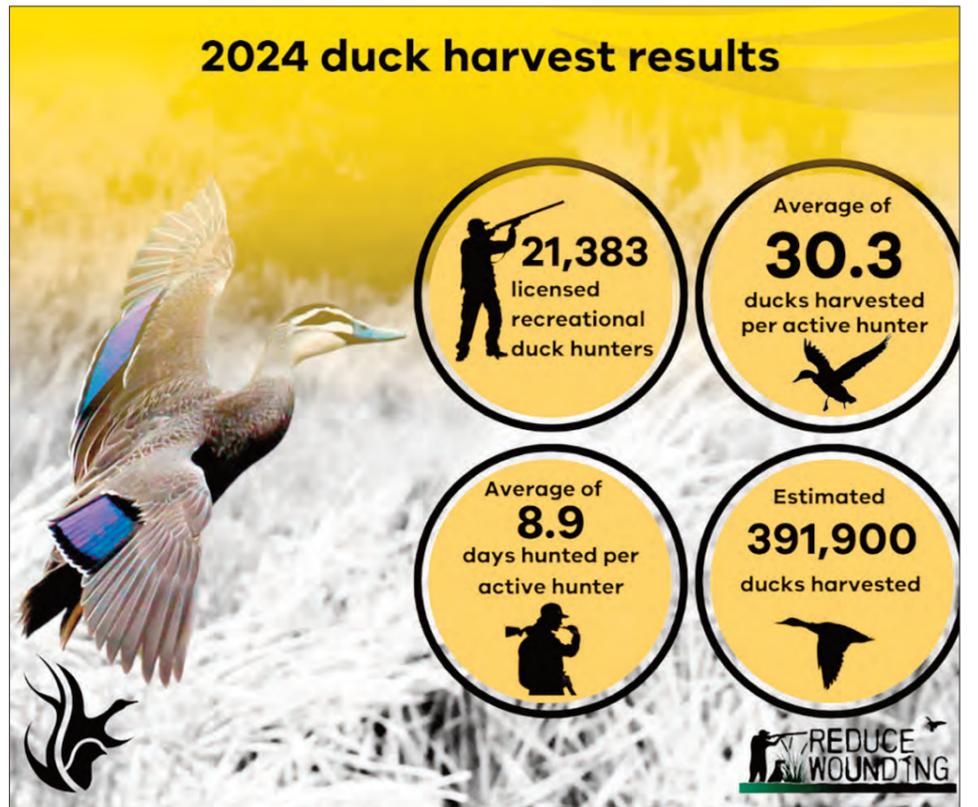
bird hunters were surveyed to collect information about their hunting activity, including how many game birds were harvested, where hunting occurred, hunting methods used, and the species of game birds harvested.

The report provides estimates of the total harvests of ducks and Stubble Quail by Victorian Game Licence holders and provides insights on

hunting activity during the seasons.

The report is produced annually by the GMA in collaboration with an independent telephone survey company and the Arthur Rylah Institute for Environmental Research.

For a full copy of the Estimates of duck and Stubble Quail harvest in Victoria 2024 report, visit [gma.vic.gov.au/research/duck-research](http://gma.vic.gov.au/research/duck-research)



**Have You Got Something to Sell?**

Try an advert in



Over 2000 readers will see your adv. every issue, giving you the best chance to move your sale item.

Phone 5497 1222  
 or email: [advertising@buloketimes.com](mailto:advertising@buloketimes.com)

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

### Support Services

Adult	Youth	Other resources
Lifeline: 13 11 14   Text 0477 13 11 14 <a href="http://lifeline.org.au">lifeline.org.au</a>	Kids Helpline: 1800 551 800 <a href="http://kidshelpline.com.au">kidshelpline.com.au</a>	Head to Health: mental health portal <a href="http://headtohealth.gov.au">headtohealth.gov.au</a>
Suicide Call Back Service: 1300 659 467 <a href="http://suicidecallbackservice.org.au">suicidecallbackservice.org.au</a>	headspace: 1800 650 890 <a href="http://headspace.org.au">headspace.org.au</a>	Life in Mind: suicide prevention portal <a href="http://lifeinmindaustralia.com.au">lifeinmindaustralia.com.au</a>
Beyond Blue: 1300 224 636 <a href="http://beyondblue.org.au/forums">beyondblue.org.au/forums</a>	ReachOut: <a href="http://ReachOut.com">ReachOut.com</a>	SANE: 1800 187 263 (10am-10pm) online forums: <a href="http://saneforums.org">saneforums.org</a>
MensLine Australia: 1300 789 978 <a href="http://mensline.org.au">mensline.org.au</a>	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander: <a href="http://13YARN.org.au">13YARN.org.au</a> or 13 92 76	Lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, and/or intersex: 1800 184 527 <a href="http://qlife.org.au">qlife.org.au</a>
StandBy Support After Suicide 1300 727 247	Culturally and linguistically diverse: <a href="http://embracemantalhealth.org.au">embracemantalhealth.org.au</a>	

# Meet the Moving Church

An article by Bacchus Marsh Uniting Church.

**This story starts in about 1880 when the residents of the small rural community of East Laen, about 10km southwest of Donald, decided to build themselves a Methodist Church.**

Not much is known about this Church, but we can assume that it was a small wooden building, probably with a galvanised iron roof. This Church served its purpose for 45 years, but then, either because of its small size or its ageing structure, it was deemed no longer adequate, and the decision was made to build a new Church.

Thanks to the "The Donald Times" we accessed good records of the celebration of the opening of the new Church on November 16, 1924, and the following are excerpts from the words written at the time.

".....warm sunshine prevailed on Sunday last, when the newly erected Methodist Church at East Laen was opened..... The new building erected beside the old Church, which had done good and faithful service for forty-five years and which has now been purchased by Mr H. Hancock, is walled with weatherboards and roofed with iron and is capable of seating a much larger congregation than the old one. Incorporated in the structure are a front porch, and vestry room. The interior of the building is nicely finished, being lined with fibrous plaster above the varnished Tasmanian hardwood dado, and ceiled with Wunderlich stamped metal, painted a light cream. Three stained glass windows of light amber shade and embellished with suitable symbols, executed in crimson and blue, admit the light and a raised dais has been provided for the choir. This is railed off in varnished Tasmanian hardwood of which the handsomely designed pulpit is also composed. The cost of construction was approximately £1000."

A major feature of the new Methodist Church as mentioned above was the huge memorial stained glass window. This window is now recorded by Heritage Victoria and is best described in their words.

"The Memorial Window – On Sunday, November 16 (1924), the opening morning service was conducted by the Rev. D. J. Flockart and during the afternoon the Rev. J. W. Dean unveiled a stained glass window, presented to the Church by the family of Mr and Mrs C. R. Basset, in memory of their brother Maurice, who was killed in Ypres in 1917. Brooks, Robinson & Co. received an order from B.M. Basset in October 1924 for a window with three lights. The central light measured approximately 77 x 17 inches, and the two flanking lights were 66 x 17 inches. The subject of St George was

depicted with head bowed and poised to slay the dragon beneath his feet. The emblems in the side windows represented Victory over Death and Peace."

In the years following the opening of this Church little information has come to light. Maybe a decline in Church attendance and that rural population, and the closeness to Donald, led to its closing many years later. But a reprieve was at hand. Here at Bacchus Marsh, the small wooden Methodist Church built in 1890 was proving inadequate for the growing congregation, and in a light bulb moment, the decision was made to move the East Laen Church to serve as a new Methodist Church here in Bacchus Marsh. The move took place in 1961, and the East Laen Church, complete with stained glass windows, became the new Church, and the old Church became the hall. The location of these buildings was in Gell St on land now occupied by the shopping centre. So that became move one.

But more was to follow. In 1972, the local Methodist and Presbyterian Churches joined in preparation, together with the Congregational Church, for the formation of the Uniting Church of Australia in 1977. Now Bacchus Marsh had two Uniting Church complexes, and it became quite obvious that only one was needed, and that should be at the St. Andrew's Presbyterian site. So, in another light bulb moment, it was decided that the Methodist Church (the East Laen one) should be moved to the St. Andrew's site as an extra hall to help service the needs of a rapidly expanding town.

This shift took place in 1980, again with the stained glass window, and that became move two. Although it was suggested at the time it could be called "Wesley Hall" the name adopted was "Fellowship Hall". In its new location, the Fellowship Hall (also referred to as the "Play Group Hall") was put to use both to serve the newly combined Church as a Sunday School and also for refreshments following special services held in St Andrews.

In 1995 the old manse, which was located on the playground next to the Church, was demolished and opened up the space between the Church and Fellowship Hall. Then, in 2003, a decision was made to develop the Fellowship Hall as a play group centre for the Bacchus Marsh community and, together with a safe fenced-in playground where the old manse had stood, this is how

we see the site today. Currently, there are 12 groups meeting in the course of an average week, catering for 80 to 100 families and at least 100 children.

100 years on and the East Laen Methodist Church is still very alive and active and continues to serve the community as it always has, even though it took two shifts to achieve this in its first centenary.

Note: East Laen Church and the East Laen School were side by side in the paddock on the right hand side of the driveway to Robert and Debbie Adams's current home. There is a plaque marking the school.

*The "Donald Times"*  
November 18, 1924

## East Laen's New Church Opening Services and Presentations

"These walls we to Thy honour raise; Long may they echo to Thy praise."

In marked contrast to the weather on the occasion of the opening of the Swanwater West Jubilee Church, warm sunshine prevailed on Sunday last, when the newly-erected Methodist church at East Laen was opened. Long before the appointed time (3 p.m.) members of the congregation and visitors from Swanwater, Jeffcott, Cope Cope, Avon Plains, Traynor's Lagoon, Watchem, Donald, Rich Avon, Laen and Litchfield began to arrive, the array of cars being most imposing.

After the singing of the Doxology by those assembled outside the building, Mr. C. W. Basset presented Mrs. H. S. Pope, who had been a member of the congregation for years, with a silver key, with which she unlocked the door of the porch. Miss Maggie Pope presided at the organ as the congregation entered the church.

### Memorial Window

A feature of the construction of the church is the fine presentation window which has been placed in the porch. The window, which is of stained glass, is in three panels, the centre division depicting the armoured figure of St. George, the patron Saint of England, standing with drawn sword. Beneath the figure is the following inscription:

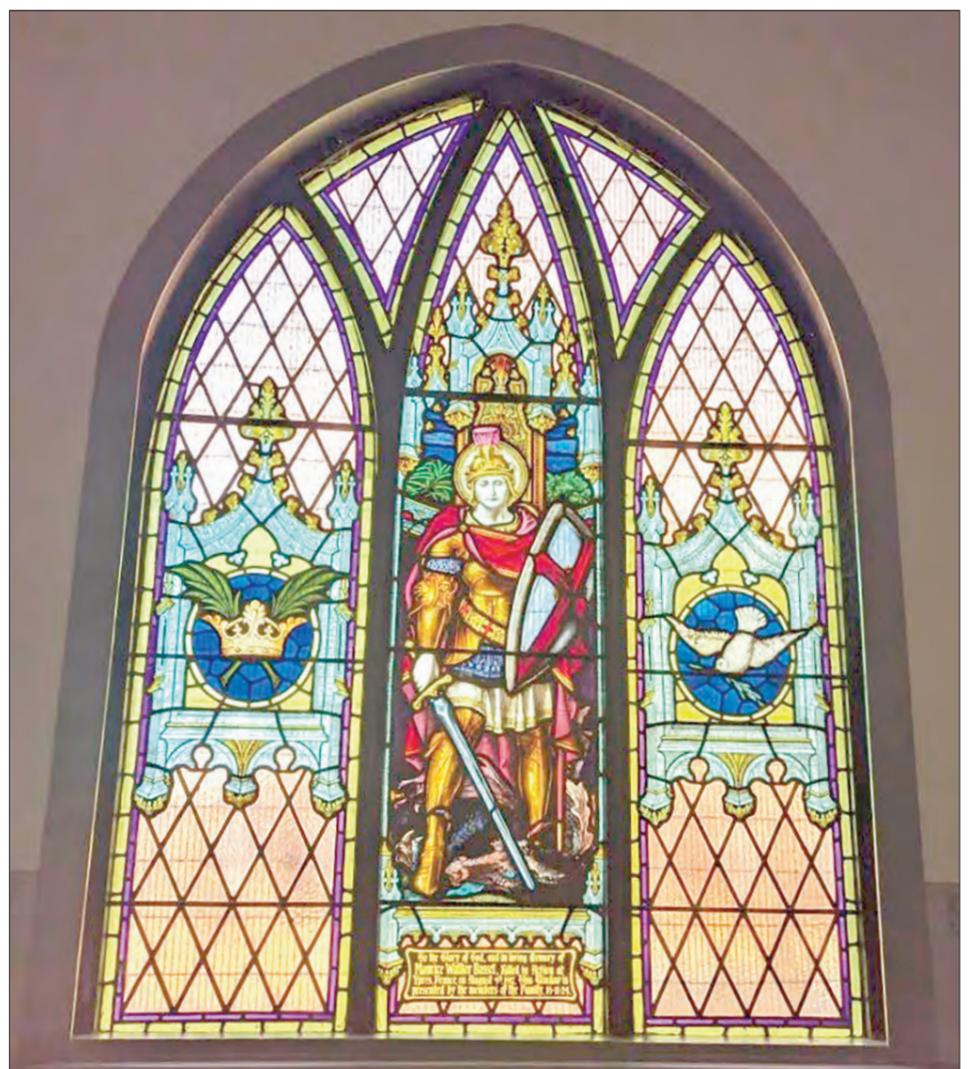
"To the Glory of God, and in loving memory of Maurice Walker Basset, killed in action at Ypres on the 9th of August, 1917. This window is presented by the members of the family, 16/11/24."

The sides are occupied by representations of the Dove of Peace, bearing the olive branch, and, on the left, by the Crown of Life. The window is a splendidly-executed piece of work, in which the colours employed blend to the best effect, and was very much admired by those present.

As soon as the large congregation was seated, the Rev. J. W. Crean called on Mr. A. E. Basset to make the



• The East Laen Church (right) became the the new Methodist Church in Bacchus Marsh.



• The memorial stained glass window. This window is now recorded by Heritage Victoria.

presentation, which he did in the following words: "On behalf of my late parents, and my brothers and sisters, I present to the congregation of the East Laen Methodist Church this window, in memory of our late brother, who was killed in the Great War."

In returning thanks on behalf of the congregation, Rev. J. W. Crean remarked that, by a strange coincidence, it was just six years ago, to the day (16th November) since the late Mr. C. R. Basset, the father of the family who had made the presentation of the window, had laid the foundation stone of the Parsonage in Donald. Their thoughts went back to the deceased gentleman, who had done so much to establish Methodism in this district, and who had stamped the youth of the district with his personality, and with the likeness of Christ.

It was a happy thought that prompted the donors to choose the figure of St.

George. When Richard of the Lion-Heart returned to England after his Crusades, and wished to establish a knight-hood, he chose St. George as its patron. History had it that the great saint slew the dragon in order that the sacrificial offering of children to the monster should not continue. In the same way the sons of Australia had answered to the Empire's call to protect their loved ones at home.

Mr. A. P. Bath, senior circuit steward, congratulated the congregation on having been presented with such a worthy memorial and spoke briefly on the value of prayer. Prayer in days not far distant, when the enemy was pressing forward in great numbers. While our soldiers were fighting, the people were praying for peace with victory.

Just as we could see God in the waters of the sea, bidding the incoming tide come "so far, and no further," so could we see His hand in the

stemming of the enemy's advance.

As they looked at the window which had been presented, they stood in silent and solemn admiration of the soldiers who fell in the cause of righteousness.

The members of the young generation of today should strive to remember and act up to the great name which their brothers had established and should also remember that, if they learned to rely more on the power of prayer, they had a great future before them.

### Presentation of Bible

Before the commencement of the afternoon service, Mr. H. S. Pope, on behalf of Messrs. Pope brothers, presented to the church trustees a handsome volume of the Holy Bible, congratulating them on having erected such a fine building. Rev. J. Crean thanked the donor, for their generous gift. Services were conducted both in the afternoon and evening.

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



**Memorial Window.**  
 A feature of the construction of the church is the fine presentation window which has been placed in the porch. The window, which is of stained glass, is in three panels, the centre division depicting the armoured figure of St. George, the patron saint of England, standing with drawn sword. Beneath the figure is the following inscription:—  
 "To the Glory of God, and in loving memory of Maurice Walker Basset, killed in action at Ypres on the 9th of August, 1917. This window is presented by the members of the family, 16/11/24."  
 The sides are occupied by representations of the Dove of Peace, bearing the olive branch, and, on the left, by the Crown of Life. The window is a splendidly-executed piece of work, in which the colours employed blend to the best effect, and was very much admired by those present.  
 As soon as the large congregation was seated, the Rev. J. W. Crean called on Mr. A. E. Basset to make the presentation, which he did in the following words:—On behalf of my late parents, and my brothers and sisters, I present to the congregation of the East Laen Methodist Church this window, in memory of our late brother, who was killed in the Great War."  
 In returning thanks on behalf of the congregation, Rev. J. W. Crean remarked that, by a strange coincidence, it was just six years ago, to the day (16th November) since the late Mr. C. R. Basset, the father of the family who had made the presentation, the window, had laid the foundation stone of the Parsonage in Donald. Their thoughts went back to the deceased gentleman, who had done so much to establish Methodism in this district, and who had stamped the youth of the district with his personality, and with the likeness of Christ.



• Right: The "Donald Times" article from November, 18, 1924.

• 100 years on, the East Laen Church now sits at its second location, in Bacchus Marsh.

## Quambatook Prepares for Harvest Working Days

Quambatook Heritage Working Machinery Association members have been working on various projects in readiness for their annual Harvest Working Days to be held on the Australia Day weekend, 25th and 26th of this month.

The Shearer header, which has had most of its woodwork replaced, is ready to run and so members have been able to turn their attention to other items of machinery.

In August of last year, the Association was offered the pick of some farm machinery on a farm in central New South Wales.

Some of its members travelled north with three trucks and four trailers (one road train) and spent a day looking and then loading five old trucks and four tractors!

The trucks were a F600 Ford, a Jailbar Ford, a Kew Dodge, a Maple Leaf Chev and an "O" model Bedford. All trucks except the F600 are fitted with gravity grain bins.

The tractors were a Chamberlain Countryman (with 354 Perkins), a Fordson Super Major, a 35 Massey Ferguson and an "N" model Fordson.

The Chamberlain was the previous owner's main tractor and is in excellent order.

The 35 Fergy has had a new starter-motor fitted as well as spark plugs and coil replaced. The old "N" model Fordson may take a little longer to restore!

The Fordson has needed a new lift pump and the injector pump has been repaired and a hole in the fuel tank mended. We think this tractor will work well pulling the Shearer header.

These machines, as well as many others will be on display, and some put to work in a wheat crop grown for the purpose, at the Quambatook Heritage Working Machinery Association's Harvest Working Days to be held on the Australia Day weekend, 25th and 26th of January. There will also be a vintage tractor-pull on Saturday afternoon. The event is fully catered for.

Accommodation is available at the Quambatook Caravan Park, phone 0428 85712

For more information contact Doug on 0427 346634 or Ian 0427 571381.



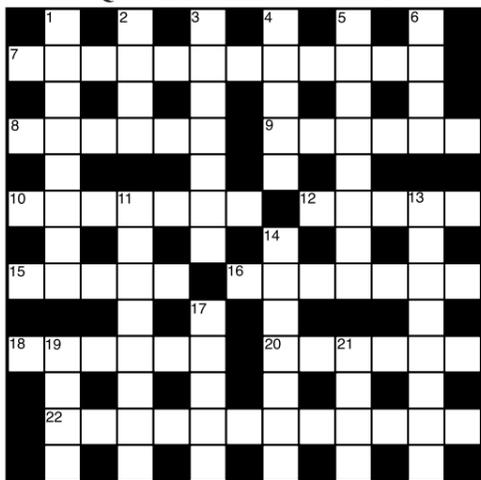
• Club members Darby and Bob checking the workings of the Shearer header the club members have been restoring.



• Loaded and ready to go! Five vintage trucks and four tractors loaded for the return trip to Quambatook to add to our collection.

## "Times" Crossword

QUICK PUZZLE NO. 8161



### ACROSS

7. Substantial (12)
8. Struggle (6)
9. Digit (6)
10. Drug (7)
12. Farm (5)
15. Core (5)
16. Omen (7)
18. Limb (6)
20. Fight (6)
22. Astonishment (12)

### DOWN

1. Inhabit (8)
2. Egyptian goddess (4)
3. Opposed (7)
4. Outline (5)
5. Plentiful (8)
6. Fair (4)
11. Tirade (8)
13. Spice (8)
14. Hide (7)
17. Tossed (5)
19. Corrode (4)
21. ... (4)

• Solution next issue.



# Don't Let Your Campfire Ruin the Long Weekend

Fire authorities and public land managers are reminding campers to make sure they check the conditions and brush up on campfire safety ahead of the upcoming long weekend.

The Conservation Regulator, Parks Victoria, and Forest Fire Management Victoria will be conducting patrols in Victoria's parks and forests throughout the weekend to make sure campers are doing the right thing.

"Our authorised officers will be visiting campsites throughout Victoria's parks and forests making sure everyone is following the rules so we can all have a safe and enjoyable long weekend," said Chief Conservation Regulator Kate Gavens.

A total of 257 unattended campfires and barbecues have been detected by the Conservation Regulator, Parks Victoria and Forest Fire Operations field staff on public land so far this financial year.

Over the last few weeks where Total Fire Bans have been declared, fire authorities and land managers continue to detect illegal campfires across the state during extreme weather conditions. Heavy penalties apply for anyone lighting a campfire on a Total Fire Ban day.

Many people try to put out campfires incorrectly with soil, or not enough water to extinguish them completely. Fires that haven't been properly extinguished can smoulder under soil for days and reignite in the right con-

ditions – if it is cool to touch it is safe to leave.

"Even if a Total Fire Ban has not been declared, we encourage campers to consider the need for a campfire on hot or windy days," said Chris Hardman, Chief Fire Officer, Forest Fire Management Victoria.

"If you are building a campfire, make sure you know how to build a safe one, don't leave it unattended while it is alight and that you put it out with water. If the ashes are cool to touch – it's safe to leave. It only takes one stray ember to cause a destructive fire."

## Plan Ahead

To ensure campfires are safe:

- Before you light a fire always check fire restrictions, including whether a Total Fire Ban is in place. Download the VicEmergency app or go to <https://www.emv.vic.gov.au/>

- Plan ahead and consider alternatives for cooking such as a portable butane cooktop.

- Use a purpose-built fireplace if available, otherwise dig a trench at least 30cm deep.

- Always follow the designated rules of your campsite. In national parks, fires can only be lit in purpose-built fireplaces unless marked otherwise.

- The campfire must not exceed one square metre, and three metres above and around your fire must be clear

of flammable material.

- Branches and logs on your campfire must be no longer than one metre.

- Never leave a campfire unattended – an adult must always stay within a 50-metre line of sight.

- Campfires must be extinguished with at least 10 litres of water every time you leave the site.

- All rubbish must be taken home with you, not burned.

"We want people to get out and enjoy Victoria's great outdoors, but unsafe campfires can have devastating consequences," said Chris Mercier, Manager, Enforcement Capability, Parks Victoria.

"It only takes one camper ignoring the rules to endanger the community and our environment,"

## Penalty

People who breach campfire regulations on public land face a maximum penalty of \$19,759 if the matter is prosecuted in court. The maximum penalty for lighting or maintaining a fire during a Total Fire Ban day is \$47,421.60 and/or two years in jail. Report unattended campfires to DEECA at 136 186 or call 000 to report a bushfire. For more on campfire rules go to: <https://www.vic.gov.au/campfires-stoves-and-bbqs>

# As Holidays Draw to an End... Community Spirit Reignites in Birchip

As the summer holidays wind down, the Birchip community is gearing up for a vibrant summer of events, spearheaded by local volunteers, community organisations, and sporting clubs.

Local summer sport has resumed, pre-season winter sports training has commenced, the pool is open every day, including two early morning sessions for lap swimming on Wednesday and Friday and two water aerobics sessions facilitated by Brenda and Maddie Doran on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Tchum Lake is buzzing with people swimming and enjoying water sports, walks, runs, barbecues and amazing sunsets, and the community calendar is filling up with an exciting array of events and activities that promise opportunities for connection, celebration, and shared experiences for all.

## Australia Day

The first major community event of 2025 will be the Australia Day celebration at Birchip Memorial Park hosted by Birchip Community Forum. Everyone is invited to the community breakfast starting at 8 a.m., followed by a keynote address by William Ringin and the presentation of the prestigious Birchip Community Awards.

Once school returns for students on Wednesday, January 28th, the calendar becomes jam packed with exciting activities. The

Birchip Tennis Club will kick off festivities, with their popular themed dinner on Saturday, February 8. This year's event, "A Night on the Green", boasts an Italian theme and promises great food, ambiance, and entertainment.

## Entertainment

On Friday, February 28, the Birchip Tennis Club will combine with the Birchip Cricket Club for their ever-popular quiz night, offering a fun and competitive evening for community members of all ages. Community members are encouraged to get together their team of 6, and lock the date in their diaries.

Many people may have already seen the movie "Just a Farmer" but a free screening with a free pre-event barbecue dinner and post-event supper at the Birchip Public Hall on Tuesday, February 18th, will focus on the meaningful and poignant messages explored in the movie.

This is a collaborative event by East Wimmera Health Service, Birchip Cropping Group, and Birchip Neighbourhood House, with funding provided by FRRR to enable the community to watch the movie together and chat about the underlying

themes of love, loss and the unbreakable spirit of a farming community facing adversity head-on.

The writer and executive producer of the film, Leila McDougall, will be in attendance to provide insight to her reasons for making of the film and the relevance the film has to rural communities like ours, and the role we all play in supporting each other.

Later in that week, on Friday, February 21, the Birchip Cropping Group will showcase its 2024 results and findings and its members-only Trials Review Day at the Birchip Community Leisure Centre.

## Long Weekend

The summer activities will culminate with Birchip's biggest weekend of the year on the long weekend in March, incorporating the Mali Heart Street Art Festival and the Birchip Harness Racing Club Mallee Bull Cup.

This summer, the Birchip community has something for everyone. Whether you're a sports enthusiast or a socialite, there is lots of opportunities to connect with friends and neighbours, and keep the community spirit thriving.

**The Buloke Times**  
Est. 1875

# KEEP ABREAST WITH LOCAL NEWS!

## Now available Online

Subscriptions: One month \$18. Six Months \$100. Twelve months \$190

Available in **monthly, six monthly or annual subscriptions.**

Subscriptions include full digital access to "The Buloke Times" online, twice weekly digital editions of "The Times" and all archived editions to 2013 for desktop, tablet and smartphone access.



[www.buloketimes.com](http://www.buloketimes.com)

Ph. 5497 1222 E. [admin@buloketimes.com](mailto:admin@buloketimes.com) [facebook.com/BulokeTimes/](https://facebook.com/BulokeTimes/)

# Reforms Under Way for Non-Emergency Patient Transport

The Victorian Government will introduce a range of reforms and improvements to Victoria's non-emergency patient transport (NEPT) sector – ensuring it can continue to meet patient needs and deliver for the community.

This work follows an extensive review of the sector undertaken by Member for Melton and former paramedic, Steve McGhie, with the review reporting that service demand has increased significantly since 2019 – averaging 400,000 individual transports each year.

The review also highlighted that while the current system has many strengths, improvements are necessary to boost access, increase efficiency, and better meet patient needs and workforce expectations.

## Improvements

In response to the review,

the Government will implement improvements to the existing model, with licensed private providers to continue delivering services.

These include better integration and co-ordination of NEPT within the wider health system, strengthening monitoring of performance and patient experience, and improving staff conditions, governance and oversight.

To be considered for future contracts, private providers will be required to address the casualisation of the workforce through the implementation of permanent employment targets by 2027-28.

## Strategies

Dedicated strategies will also be developed to support the attraction, retention and ongoing development of the workforce.

This will include ensuring NEPT workers can respond to patients within their scope of practice, as well as career pathways to support transitions between the NEPT, broader health and emergency sectors.

Work will also get under way to improve timeliness and reliability of services, so planned transports aren't delayed by crews being diverted to a Triple Zero caller.

To support this, HealthShare Victoria (HSV) – which is already responsible for the procurement of NEPT for health services – will assume responsibility for the procurement of NEPT for Ambulance Victoria.

## More Timely Services

Contract arrangements will be revised to minimise NEPT responses to Triple Zero callers that, in turn, disrupt planned responses to patients who require clinical monitoring to return home or access health care.

The centralised procurement of NEPT services by HSV, for both health services and Ambulance Victoria, will

reduce the duplication that currently exists, enable more timely services across the state and keep paramedics free to respond to patients experiencing time critical medical emergencies.

These changes will also focus on giving NEPT providers sufficient transport volumes to support viability and improve access to services particularly in rural and regional areas where demand for NEPT is lower.

Additional policy changes in response to the NEPT Review remain under active consideration and are subject to further decisions by the Government.

NEPT services are available to Victorians who require clinical monitoring and

supervision during transport to, from and between health care service.

These reforms are just one way the Government is working to ensure both NEPT and emergency ambulance resources are operating effectively and efficiently and, most importantly, are available to Victorians when and where they need them.

The extensive review undertaken by Steve McGhie included an early discussion paper, public submissions from stakeholders and face-to-face consultation via a series of roundtables and 1:1 meetings.

Every year, the State Government provides \$173 million to health services and Ambulance Victoria for NEPT services.

## Community Update

## Buloke.



Australia Day

Reflect. Respect. Celebrate.

### 2025 Australia Day Buloke Awards Celebration

It's time to reflect and celebrate! Be part of the 2025 Buloke Awards Celebration as we recognise outstanding contributions to our community.

**When: Thursday, 23 January 2025**

**Time: 6:00pm for a 6:30pm start**

**Where: Wycheproof Shire Hall**

Enjoy a light meal and guest speaker Assistant Commissioner Glenn Weir, and honour the special nominees for Citizen of the Year, Young Citizen of the Year, and Community Event of the Year.

### An Afternoon of Art 2.0

Join us for another relaxing and inspiring afternoon of creativity and connection with local artist Kerry Duncan!

What to Expect:

- A charcoal sketch session to explore the beauty of simplicity.
- An abstract art class to unleash your imagination.
- The unique "3, 2, 1" challenge – create magic with 3 colours, 2 brushes, and 1 canvas.

Expect laughter, fun, and plenty of artistic inspiration! Afternoon tea is also provided.

**When: Sunday, 2nd February 2025**

**Time: 2:00 PM – 6:00 PM**

**Where: Donald Train Station, Walker St.**

Bookings essential: Call 1300 520 520 or email us at [buloke@buloke.vic.gov.au](mailto:buloke@buloke.vic.gov.au)

Strictly limited spots available – book now to secure your place!

\*\* This initiative is proudly funded by the Australian and Victorian Government's Community Recovery Hubs Program.

### Rates Payment Reminder

Residents are reminded that rates paid In Full are due on **February 15, 2025**.

For rates paid by Instalments, the third rate payment is due February 28, 2025.

All preferred payment methods can be found at [www.buloke.vic.gov.au/make-a-payment](http://www.buloke.vic.gov.au/make-a-payment)

Having trouble paying this instalment by the due date? Contact our Rates Department as soon as possible to set up a suitable payment option.

### Notice of an Application for a Planning Permit

The land affected by the application is located at **Lot 15, 16, 17/Yeungroon Road, Charlton East VIC 3525**.

The application is for a permit for the use and development of land for a Poultry farm comprising of two sites (ten sheds per site with ancillary outbuildings and manager's dwellings), with capacity of 163,500 birds per site. Total capacity of 327,000 birds.

The application reference number is **PA24025**.

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 Council, 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 on the Planning page of the Buloke Shire Council website.

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

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

### Temporary closure of the Donald Hall

We have identified the need for some urgent building repairs at the Donald Hall which requires the hall to be closed until further notice to ensure it is safe and ready for future use.

The Supper Room may still be booked by special request. For booking enquiries, please contact our Customer Service Team on 1300 520 520.

The RSL building remains open and available for bookings during this time.

### Road Surveying

Residents are to be advised that road assessments and geotechnical testing are currently underway on the following roads until late February:

- Birchip Corack Road
- Pinks Road
- Wooroonook Road / Corack East Road
- Nine Mile Road
- Tower Road
- Bunker Road
- Devon Park Road
- Show Street
- Charles Street
- Dumosa Birchip Road
- Corack Wycheproof Road
- Gonyah Flat Road
- Donald Street, O'Donnell Street & Wright Street Charlton
- Kaye Street
- Watson Street
- Menzies Street
- Learmonth Street

Please drive carefully when travelling through these works and traffic conditions may have been changed.



### Employment Opportunities with Buloke

**Buloke Shire Council is an equal opportunity employer. Our roles are non-gender specific, and Council encourages all suitably qualified applicants to apply.**

For more information on equal opportunity, call Human Resources on 1300 520 520.

You can find all our current employment opportunities at [www.buloke.vic.gov.au/employment](http://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](mailto:recruitment@buloke.vic.gov.au)**



**Seasonal Lifeguards** – We are looking for pro-active, focused and motivated individuals of all ages to our join our Pool Lifeguard Team to help fill shifts towards the end of the 2024/25 Swimming Pool Season.

Lifeguards are currently needed for the following pools: Berriwillock, Donald, Sea Lake and Wycheproof. To apply simply complete the Expression of Interest Form online via Councils website.

## Health Network Plan Risks Local Autonomy

The Nationals Member for Mildura, Jade Benham, has criticised the State Government's plan to create Local Health Service Networks, bringing Mildura Public Hospital, Mallee Track Health and Community Services and Robinvale District Health under the Loddon Mallee Network, whilst grouping East Wimmera Health and Rural Northwest Health with Grampians.

"Labor claims this will improve patient care, but centralising services has only made things worse for regional Victorians in the past. It's amalgamation by stealth, and it doesn't work," Ms Benham said.



• Jade Benham.

Ms Benham has been calling for autonomy for our regions healthcare if

Local Health Service Networks were to be implemented and illustrated how well the Northern Mallee Integrated Partnerships have worked.

While acknowledging that this plan offers a sub-network for the region's three services, Ms Benham remains cautious about its execution.

"Whilst it's finally a very small step in the right direction, the Labor Government is notorious for big promises with little detail. Communities deserve clarity, not vague assurances," she said.

There are also fears the changes will lead to job cuts and reduced services.

The Nationals are demanding transparency around these changes, including clear plans for workforce impacts and community outcomes.

"From crumbling roads to underfunded hospitals, Labor keeps treating regional Victorians as an afterthought," Ms Benham said.

The Nationals will continue to fight for the independence of regional health services and ensure local voices are heard.

"Regional communities know what's best for their health services. We don't need bureaucrats in Melbourne telling us how to care for our patients. Our communities deserve better.

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



Phone: 1300 520 520  
[www.buloke.vic.gov.au](http://www.buloke.vic.gov.au)

# Charlton College

Charlton College's Awards Ceremony was held on Monday, December 16, at the REX Cinema with a large crowd present.

School Captains, Dayne Bartlett and Emily Olive, compered the event.

In this address, School Council President, Troy Heenan noted the strength and professionalism of the staff who go above and beyond to support the students, and Principal Jamie Daff noted the resilience displayed by students in what was another challenging year.

The Australian Defence Force Long Tan Leadership Award recipients were Emily Olive and Sarah Blair. These students were acknowledged for the leadership and teamwork they have demonstrated within the school and broader community, and for demonstrating values considered in-

tegral to the ADF and Australian society.

ADF also provided funding for a Future Innovators Award. The recipient of this was Elliott Fitzpatrick. This award aims to encourage the next generation of innovators, critical thinkers and problem solvers by recognising their success in STEM subjects.

## Awards

Students recognised for their all-round achievement were Wally Judd, Samuel Cossar, Erin Blair and Fletcher Holmes-Brown. GWM Water sponsored the Science High Achiever Award. Ezmerelda Gray was the recipient of this scholarship.

Marley McGurk, Ruby Radcliffe and Emily Olive

were recognised for exhibiting the College's Three Rs – Respect, Responsibility and Resilience, each receiving Parents' Clubs SWPBS award for their relative area of the College.

The Bourke family award, in Oscar's name, was awarded to Engineering student Michael Olive. Along with the scholarship Cooper was



presented with a Perpetual Trophy.

The North Central LLEN, again sponsored the Vocational Pathways award. Nick

• Continued on page 11



• Kaylene Cossar, President of the Charlton Neighbourhood House, with Dux Scholarship winner, Dayne Bartlett.



• 10-12 All Rounder: Fletcher Holmes-Brown.



• Nutrien Ag: Annie Olive and Julie Bourke (NCLLEN).



• Isabelle Stahl, Numeracy Encouragement Award.



• ADF Innovator: Elliott Fitzpatrick.



• Lions Excellence: Heidi Start and Ebony Start.



• Cr Bruce Stafford with Years 7-9 All Rounder, Erin Blair.



• NCLLEN Workplace: Julie Bourke (NCLLEN) and Troy Heenan (Charlton Newsagency).



• NCLLEN Student: Nick Thompson.



• Literary Awards, left to right: Thomas Fitzpatrick, Audrey McPhee, Anna Fitzpatrick and Stella Nicolson.



• Technology and Design Award winner, Taylah Giles with John Headon from Charlton Lions Club.

# Awards Ceremony



• Class of 2024: left to right: Hugh Sait, Ned Zagame, Murphy McGeown, Elliott Fitzpatrick, Cooper Boyle, Nick Thompson, Angus Soulsby, Dayne Bartlett, Emily Olive, Ebony Start, Ezmerellda Gray, Bonnie Nicolson.

• Continued from page 10



• 4-6 All Rounder, Samuel Cossar.

Jamie Daff, alongside Kaylene Cossar, President of the Charlton Neighbourhood House, presented Dayne Bartlett with the Charlton Dux Scholarship for 2024. On receiving the scholarship Dayne spoke about the many people and experiences that have led to her success.

The evening concluded with the College Captains' report where they acknowledged the memories, they will take with them and thanked the work of all staff at the College.

They also acknowledged the support of the many scholarship donors on behalf of the College.



• Michael Olive, Oscar Bourke Memorial Award, with the Bourke family from left, Isaac Bourke, Brendan Bourke, Reggie Bourke, Julie Bourke, and Clancy Bourke.



• SWPBS: Hayley Soulsby (Parents' Club), Marley McGurk, Emily Olive and Ruby Radcliffe.



• ADF Leadership: Sarah Blair, Allan McGillivray (Charlton RSL), Emily Olive.



• Molly Riley, Artistic Endeavour recipient and Anna Fitzpatrick, Visual Development Award with Bill Freeman, Charlton Arts Inc.

**LET'S CLEAN UP** **2025**

# AUSTRALIA

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

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

# Blast from the Past

(From the "Donald Times", December, 1924)

**December 2. Another Broken Window.** Between 9 o'clock on Saturday night and 8 a.m. on Sunday, one of the plate glass windows at Forer's Pty. Ltd. was cracked, seemingly by the impact of a stone or a knock from some sharp object. A small hole has been made, around which the glass has been chipped and splintered.

**December 5. A Nonagenarian.** Death of Mr Carl Vogel. At the great age of 91 years, Mr. Carl Vogel, one of the oldest settlers of the Watchem district, died on Friday, November 21. The deceased gentleman left behind him a long and honourable record of hard pioneering work and valued citizenship. He was twice married and leaves a widow and the following family: Henry, August, Gustav, Paul and Bert. (Watchem), Mrs. C. Free (Gippsland), Mrs. Walters (Merbein) and Mrs. Carne (Wilkur). The funeral, which was largely attended, took place at Watchem on Saturday, November 22, the arrangements being in the hands of Mr. R. E. Carne.

**December 9 Laen.** A draft horse belonging to Mr. J.T. Loats of Laen, recently fell down an unused well, 12 feet deep and was badly wounded in the abdomen. The animal, which was kept moving, was raised to the surface by the simple expedient of filling the well with straw. The injuries necessitated the attention of a veterinary surgeon, and the animal is making a good recovery.

**December 12. A Narrow Escape.** Late Resident of Donald Rescued from Drowning. Knocked off her feet and temporarily stunned by a wave, Marjorie Morgan, aged 12 years, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. F. Morgan, late of Donald, and now of Glenhantly Road, Caulfield, was rescued from drowning at St Kilda on Saturday afternoon by two boys aged 16 years. Under the influence of a strong south-westerly wind the surface of the bay became increasingly rough, and none of the many bathers ventured beyond the shallow water. On the section of beach opposite the Beaconsfield Hotel, Beaconsfield Parade and adjacent to the West St Kilda Life-Saving Club building, there were between 400 and 500 persons. The girl entered the water between 4 and 5 o'clock. Suddenly from the shore it was noticed that she had disappeared. Shouts from the beach acquainted other bathers of the fact. For a time no trace of her could be found, but eventually she was seen in deep water about 200 yards from the shore. Marcus Kirsner, a

Melbourne Grammar School student and Leonard Prosser of Beaconsfield Parade, swam to her assistance, and with some difficulty brought her to shallow water. After having received treatment from the secretary of the life-saving club (Mr. R. Radford) the girl was taken to her home.

**December 16. Phew! Mercury on the Climb.** A long time has elapsed since Donald was so thoroughly baked as it was during the latter portion of last week. On Wednesday the weather was "warm enough" at 94 degrees, and prepared residents in a measure for a rise to 100 degrees on Thursday. They were, however, hardly keyed up to such a pitch that Friday held no terrors for them. From early morn the sun glared down relentlessly, until we might have been excused for believing that our Mother Earth had sideslipped a few miles nearer the sun. Towards the noon, domestic fowls began to topple over in their tracks, and conditions had become most uncomfortable, nor did the night bring relief. At about 1.15 a.m. on Saturday

there was "the sound of a mighty rushing wind" accompanied by a generous portion of Mallee dust, but little benefit was experienced. Saturday was also a "stinker", although the mercury dropped from 108.5 to 103.5. Clouded skies seemed to betoken the proximity of some drastic change but this did not materialise until the early hours of Sunday morning when the "Portland Doctor" in the shape of a cool breeze, arrived in haste, affecting a fall of nearly 40 degrees in the temperature. (Note: 108.5F = 42.5C)

**December 19, Cope Cope.** Jas. Bennetto took delivery of the first load of this season's wheat on Monday, December 15th, it being a fine sample of Federation yielding 10 bags to the acre and grown and delivered by Mr. Jack Pilgrim of Cope Cope.

**December 23: The Scout Camp. Visiting Day.** The leader, Mr. C. Godden, extends a hearty invitation to all parents, friends and other district residents, to visit the Boy Scout camp on the east shore of the Little Lake on Sunday,

the 28th of December, at 3 p.m., and to join with the boys in their Scout Service at 3.30 p.m., when Lieut.-Co. E.A. Harris will deliver a short address. For those who wish to bring provisions for tea with the boys, hot water will be provided at the camp. Arrangements have been made with Mr. Geo. Basset whereby visitors may be conveyed to the camp, particulars being advertised in another column.

**December 26. A Frank Opinion.** Councillor would debar Lady Drivers. During general discussion at the last meeting of the Donald Shire Council, the matter of the twelve mile speed limit in the town was mentioned. All aspects, including that of "driving to the danger of the public", were reviewed and the general conclusion seemed to be that only after a person was killed it be arrived at that motorists had been driving in a dangerous manner. Cr. McNab thought that old men should not be allowed to drive. "I would not grant a licence to a man over sixty or to a lady," said Cr. McNab. By way of explanation he continued "They lose their heads." Amid the

general laughter that greeted the Councillor's candid expression of opinion, the president (Cr. Coats) reminded

those present that they were getting away from the subject, and discussion thereupon closed.

## MICHAELS OF DONALD

bring you

**Belvedere** By George Crenshaw  
www.belvedere-cartoons.com



"I think he caught a big one!"

# The Ettamogah Pub Mob

© Southern Equity  
Inv Trust 2014.  
www.ettamogah.com



"Cripes... talk about a long run up... that's th' Aussie fast bowler we're goin' down to th' oval to see play!"

Drive to stay  
alive — take  
care on the  
roads. Drive  
to stay alive —  
take care on  
the roads.

# Charlton 100 Years Ago

(Information from "East Charlton Tribune")

January 3 to 21, 1925.

**New Year:** When the old year was signalled out, there was hardly a soul in the street. Three car-loads went to Maryborough, two from the garage of Messrs H. J. Jackson and Son, and one from the garage of Mr H. Dew. Jacksons had two cars booked for Koondrook races, one for St Arnaud and one for the New Year's Day picnicking at Wooroonook Lakes, while for the last-named, Mr Dew had four cars ordered. The Lakeside was thronged and a glorious day was spent by children and adults. The Wooroonook Tennis Club invited St Joseph's Tennis Club out for a day's tennis; and the visitors had a pleasant time.

**Camera in Fields:** Visiting Charlton during the past few days, Mr Sutcliffe, of the "Weekly Times", took some interesting photographs of work in the harvest fields. At Messrs S. & A. Lynas paddocks, at Wooroonook, a McKay header was photographed in action. One of Mr S. Wood's paddocks at Wooroonook was also visited, and here bags were seen being filled and sewn. The farm of Mr W. Olive, at Yeungroon, was visited. Photos were also secured at Mr W. Cossar's farm where Bill, Sid and Jack Cossar were putting the same heart into the harvesting as they put into football.

**Bold, Bad Bull:** We have all heard of the proverbial "bull in a china-shop"; well, a new variation was provided in Charlton in the shape of a bull in (or rather at) the jeweller's shop. The time was about 6 a.m.. The bull evidently de-

cidied that a little diversion would help to pass the time away, and its interest became centred in Mr H. G. Barber's shop. Then it caught sight of its own reflection in the plate-glass; and it charged the window. The impact lifted the plate-glass out of its frame, the putty was torn away, and 1½ inch nails were wrenched out. But the window did not break. The bull was next inclined to turn its attention to one of the windows in the premises of Mr W. Wylie, but some boys who were about chased the animal away.

**Big Blow:** Whirling clouds of dust which enveloped the sky in a yellowish gloom, convinced Charlton and district that a passable imitation of a cyclone had been let loose. The rainstorm which followed was a nasty break in the good harvesting weather. At Buckrabanyule the whole of the verandah at the store next to the Gladstone Hotel was blown down. A considerable amount of damage was done in the district lying between Yeungroon, Coonooer and St Arnaud. Mr J. Ritchie, of Yeungroon, had a chimney blown off his residence, while the roof was smashed in, and the ceiling damaged. Mr Gordon Gill's barn was minus a roof. Mr E. Ritchie lost the roof of his stable. Several roofs in the Nine Mile district were blown down.

**Glenloth:** Mr Thos Allen was presented with a gold-mounted whip, the gift of Mr Geo Hagley (trotting goods manufacturer), for being the second most successful trotting driver in Victoria for the

past season. Mr Allen had 14½ wins to his credit.

**Snakes:** Saturday proved rather an eventful day at the East Charlton Homestead (Mr J. Paterson). About 11 o'clock in the forenoon, a 6-foot brown snake made its appearance, and was promptly despatched. In the afternoon another of the same species, about 5 feet in length, was observed, and suffered the same fate as its predecessor. Both were killed within a few yards of the Homestead.

**Under Canvas:** Under auspicious circumstances, the 1st Charlton Troop of Boy Scouts held their Annual camp at Wooroonook. The weather was perfect. The routine was: 6.30 a.m. Reveille; 7, swim; 7.30 breakfast; 9 a.m. tent and kit inspection, prayers; 9.30 to 12 swimming; 12.30 p.m. dinner; 2 to 5 Scout games and sports; 6 tea; 7 to 9, campfire songs, yarns etc; 10, supper; 10.30 lights out. The Camp was under the personal supervision of the Scoutmaster, Rev. A. E. Freeman.

**Nine Mile – a brief Historical review:** With an increased number of people living in the Nine Mile district, owing to the working of the mine, a school was conducted in Mr Miles Winter's hut. The space was too small so a Hall was built in 1901 and school was held there. At the opening about 40 children were present – families: Edwards, Baker, McGurk, Winter, Dury, Ray, Robins, Carr, Nyah, Cross, Smale, Brookes and Griffiths. The Hall was

also used as a Church. The Nine Mile Football Club was formed, captained by Mr J. McGurk. A cricket team was also formed. Annual Sports

were held. The working of the mine became more difficult owing to the quantity of water present. Over 13 years £72,000 worth of gold was ex-

tracted. The Company dissolved in 1911. In the Great War over 20 brave lads enlisted and three made the Supreme Sacrifice.



• Above and below: Nine Mile Gold Mine.



• Nine Mile School (c1912). Front row (kneeling): Eric White, Jack Curran, Robert Dawson, Charlie Dury, Lionel Collinson, Lew Collinson. Second row, left to right: Foster White, Mary McGurk, Halley White, Alice McGurk, Cathy White, Lizzie Power, Rowy Gillett, Dolly, Gillett, Lexie White. Third row, left to right: George Baker, Rae, Curran, Tom Waters, Alley Gillett, May Power, Alec Winter, Roy Dury, Mr Hodge (headmaster). Fourth row, left to right: Jack Mitchell, Alf. Dury, Billy Dawson, Rae, Rob. Baker, Rae, Norman Dury. Donated by Stella Smyth (Power) younger sister of Lizzie and May Power (in photo).

# Kissable, Naturally

Bad breath (halitosis) is a common problem that often comes from the activity of bacteria in the mouth, or as a result of congestion in the colon.

Although there is no way of knowing for sure, most adults probably suffer from bad breath occasionally, with perhaps a quarter suffering on a regular basis.

Common symptoms of bad breath are dryness in the mouth, insufficient saliva flow, poor cleaning between the teeth, postnasal drip on the back of the tongue, an onset of throat infection, dentures kept in the mouth at night or not cleaned properly, poor oral hygiene, gum disease, or excessive bacterial activity on the tongue.

Some people suffer from bad breath without knowing it, while others build up exaggerated fears about a breath odour even though they do not have it. The best way to find out whether you have bad breath is to ask someone else's opinion. If you don't ask, other people are unlikely to tell you.

If you have reason to believe that there is a problem, add two drops of peppermint oil to a cup of warm water, gargle for a few minutes and rinse. Repeat as often as needed. Or try chewing a

fragrant cardamom pod two or three times a day. Parsley is also a natural breath freshener, and eating a few sprigs after a meal will help.

An increased fibre content helps bowel regularity, and so counters the problem from the inside by reducing gas pressure build-up. Include plenty of peas, potatoes, bananas, brown rice and barley in your diet.

The following "Green Herbal Drink" is also excellent for bad breath, as well as being highly nutritious and cleansing. Make this fresh each day and drink morning and night.

Process in a blender, 250 grams of wild herbs, such as chickweed and dandelion (mixed or on their own), two tablespoons of finely chopped parsley and/or watercress or celery, one teaspoon of cider

vinegar, one small carrot (chopped), 250 grams of fruit (apple, peaches, pineapple or watermelon), and one cup of liquid to dilute (orange juice, pineapple juice, vegetable broth or mineral water). Drink your Green Drink immediately.

Gargling with a herbal mouth wash morning and night after cleaning your teeth, or whenever needed will also help to eliminate bad breath. You can make your own mouth wash by adding to a ceramic bowl, one teaspoon of dried peppermint leaves or a peppermint tea bag and ten cloves. Pour half a litre of boiling water over the ingredients, then add half a cup of apple cider

vinegar, cover and steep for twenty-four hours. Strain through clean, sterile muslin cloth and then drip through coffee filter paper. Store in a tightly sealed glass bottle. This mouthwash will not only keep your breath fresh, but it will also help to keep the gums in a healthy condition.

If bad breath is a result of Gingivitis, use the following mouthwash as required: dilute two drops each of lemon and eucalyptus oils, and one drop of lavender oil in one teaspoon of vodka. Blend the mixture with a cup of warm water, then rinse, but do not swallow. Any excess mouth wash can be kept in the refrigerator. Warm before using.



• Alan Hayes

If bad breath persists, it would be wise to consult your health practitioner.

Visit Alan on the Net - [www.itssonatural.com](http://www.itssonatural.com)



## YOUR THREE-DAY TV GUIDE

## Tuesday

**ABC TV (2)** 6.00 News, 9.00 News, 10.00 Our Brain, 11.00 Antiques Roadshow, 12.00 News, 1.00 Call The Midwife, 2.00 Fake Or Fortune?, 3.00 Back Roads, 3.30 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 Dr Karl's How Things Work, 8.30 Eat The Invaders, 9.05 Croc Watch, 9.50 Miriam Margolyes In New Zealand, Final, 10.50 News, 11.00 Murder In Provence, Final, 12.35 Grand Designs, 1.25 Late Programs.

**ABC FAMILY (22)** 6.00 Kids' Programs, 2.45 Beep And Mort, 3.00 Play School: Let The Games Begin, 3.50 Andy's Safari 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!, 8.35 Deadly Predators, 9.05 Secrets Of The Zoo, 9.50 Doctor Who, 10.40 Mythbusters "There's Your Problem!", 11.05 Late Programs.

**NITV (34)** 6.00 Morning Programs, 12.00 Audrey Napanangka, 1.30 Spirit Talker, 2.00 Faboriginal, 2.30 The Cook Up, 3.00 Waabiny Time, 3.35 Spartakus, 4.05 Cities Of Gold, 4.35 Motown Magic, 5.00 Our Stories, 5.15 Harlem Globetrotters, 6.00 Bamay, 6.40 The Big Dry, 7.30 Australia In Colour, 8.30 MOVIE: Finkle There And Back, (2018) 10.20 You Are Here: Don't Need A Map, 11.55 MOVIE: Manganinnie, (1980) 1.20 MOVIE: The Furnace, (2020) 3.20 Songlines, 4.00 On The Road, 5.00 Bamay.

**SBS (3)** 6.00 Morning Programs, 12.00 BBC News At Ten, 12.30 ABC World News Tonight, 1.00 PBS News, 2.00 Great Australian Railway Journeys, 3.00 The Weekly Football Wrap, 3.40 The Cook Up, 4.10 Britain By Beach, 5.05 Jeopardy!, 5.30 Letters And Numbers, 6.00 Mastermind Australia, 6.30 News, 7.30 Who Do You Think You Are?, 8.35 Stock Aitken Waterman: Legends Of Pop, 9.55 The Artist's View, 10.25 SBS News, 10.55 Beyond Signs, 11.55 Christian, 2.55 Late Programs.

**SBS VLND (31)** 6.00 Morning Programs, 12.20 France 24 English News, 12.50 Land Of The Giants: Titans Of Tech, 1.55 Dark Side Of The '90s, 2.50 Celebrity Mastermind, 3.55 BBC News At Ten, 4.25 ABC World News Tonight, 4.55 PBS News, 5.55 Alone, 7.05 Jeopardy!, 7.35 8 Out Of 10 Cats, 8.30 The Unexplained Mysteries Of The Universe, 9.20 Leuzigamo Does America, 11.10 Adam Looking For Eve, 1.00 Hamilton's Pharmacopoeia, 2.50 Late Programs.

**SBS MOVIES (32)** 6.00 Rabbit-Proof Fence, (2002) 6.40 Walking On Sunshine, (2014) 8.30 Leap Year, (2010) 10.25 Luzzu, (2021, Maltese) 12.15 The Brbe Of Heaven, (2016, Spanish) 1.55 Cheerful Weather For The Wedding, (2012) 3.45 The 400 Blows, (1959, French) 5.40 The Wild Duck, (1983) 7.30 The Furnace, (2020) David Wenham, 9.40 Son Of A Gun, (2014) Brenton Thwaites, 11.40 The Year Of Fury, (2020, Spanish) 1.35 Late Programs.

**SEVEN (6)** 6.00 Sunrise, 9.00 The Morning Show, 12.00 Seven's National News At Noon, 1.00 MOVIE: Morning Show Mysteries: Murder On The Menu, (2018) 3.00 The Chase, 4.00 News, 5.00 The Chase Australia, 6.00 Seven News, 7.00 Home And Away, 7.30 Cricket, Big Bash League, The Knockout, 11.00 BBL Post-Game, 11.30 Lockerbie, Final, 12.35 Cycling, Santos Tour Down Under, Men's, Stage 1, Highlights, 1.35 Travel Oz, 2.00 Shopping, 4.00 NBC Today, 5.00 Late Programs.

**7TWO (62)** 6.00 Morning Programs, 8.00 Million Dollar Minute, 9.00 Animal Rescue, 9.30 Auction Squad, 10.30 My Greek Odyssey, 11.30 Room For Improvement, 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 Animal Rescue, 4.30 Better Homes, 5.30 Escape To The Country, 6.30 Bargain Hunt, 7.30 Call The Midwife, 8.30 Inspector George Gently, 10.30 Air Crash Inv, 11.30 Late Programs.

**7MATE (64)** 6.00 Fishy Business, 7.00 Step Outside, 7.30 Creek To Coast, 8.00 A Football Life, 9.00 America's Game, 10.00 American Pickers, 11.00 Pawn Stars, 11.30 Cycling, Santos Tour Down Under, Men's, Stage 1, 4.30 Storage Wars, 5.00 American Resto, 5.30 American Pickers, 6.30 Pawn Stars, 7.00 Big Bash League Pre-Game, 7.30 Outback Truckers, 9.30 Kings Of Pain, 10.30 Ice Road Trainers, 12.30 Storage Wars, 1.00 American Pickers, 2.00 Late Programs.

**NINE (8)** 6.00 Today, 11.00 Tennis, Australian Open, Day 10, 4.00 Tennis, Australian Open, Afternoon 10, 6.00 9News, 7.00 Tennis, Australian Open, Night 10, 11.00 Tennis, Australian Open, Late night 10, 12.00 New Amsterdam, 1.00 First On Scene, 1.30 TV Shop, 2.30 Our State On A Plate, 3.00 TV Shop, 4.00 Believer's Voice Of Victory, 4.30 GolfBarons, 5.00 Today Early News, 5.30 Today.

**9GEM (81)** 6.00 Morning Programs, 9.30 Newstyle Direct, 10.00 Australian Open Tennis Pre-Show, 11.00 The Baron, 12.00 Days Of Our Lives, 12.55 The Young And The Restless, 1.50 Antiques Roadshow, 2.20 MOVIE: Kind Hearts And Coronets, (1949) 4.30 Escape To The Farm With Kate Humble, 5.30 Antiques Roadshow, 6.00 Tennis, Australian Open, Afternoon 10, 7.00 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, 9.30 Yu-Gi-Oh! Sevens, 10.00 Ninjago, 10.30 Pokémon Horizons: The Series, 11.00 Transformers: Cyberverse, 11.30 Teen Titans Go! 12.00 Hart Of Dixie, 2.00 Bewitched, 2.30 I Dream Of Jeannie, 3.00 The Nanny, 3.30 Seinfeld, 4.30 The Addams Family, 5.00 Bewitched, 5.30 News, 6.00 The Golden Girls, 6.30 The Nanny, 7.30 Seinfeld, 8.30 MOVIE: Law Abiding Citizen, (2009) Gerard Butler, 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 I'm A Celebrity... Get Me Out Of Here! 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 I'm A Celebrity... Get Me Out Of Here! 9.00 The Ex-Wife, New, 10.00 News, 10.25 The Project, 11.30 Stephen Colbert, 12.30 Late Programs.

**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 Star Trek: Voyager, 2.30 Jake And The Fatman, 3.30 Diagnosis Murder, 5.30 JAG, 7.30 NCIS, 9.25 NCIS: New Orleans, 11.15 Bull, 12.15 Shopping, 2.15 Diagnosis Murder, 4.05 JAG.

**10 PEACH (52)** 6.00 Morning Programs, 10.00 Family Feud, 10.30 Drew Barrymore, 11.30 Deal Or No Deal, 12.00 Stephen Colbert, 1.00 Rules Of Engagement, 1.30 King Of Queens, 2.00 TBA, 3.30 Rules Of Engagement, 4.00 Farm To Fork, 4.30 King Of Queens, 5.00 Becker, 5.30 Frasier, 6.30 Neighbours, 7.00 Friends, 8.00 The Big Bang Theory, 9.30 Two And A Half Men, 10.30 Rules Of Engagement, 11.00 Frasier, 11.30 Late Programs.

**ABC TV (2)** 6.00 News, 9.00 News, 10.00 The Way We Wore, 11.00 Antiques Roadshow, 12.00 News, 1.00 Changing Ends, 2.00 Fake Or Fortune?, 3.00 Back Roads, 3.30 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 Spicks And Specks, 8.30 Live At The Malthouse, 9.40 Planet America, Return, 10.10 Utopia, 11.05 News, 11.20 Aftertaste, 12.25 Grand Designs, 1.10 Long Lost Family, 1.55 Late Programs.

**ABC FAMILY (22)** 6.00 Kids' Programs, 1.40 Ben And Holly, 2.05 Paddington, 2.45 Beep And Mort, 3.00 Play School: Let The Games Begin, 3.50 Andy's Safari 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!, 8.35 Deadly Predators, 9.05 Secrets Of The Zoo, 9.50 Doctor Who, 10.40 Mythbusters "There's Your Problem!", 11.05 Late Programs.

**NITV (34)** 6.00 Morning Programs, 1.00 Scotland, Slavery And Statues, 2.00 Faboriginal, 2.30 The Cook Up, 3.00 Waabiny Time, 3.35 Spartakus, 4.05 Cities Of Gold, 4.35 Motown Magic, 5.00 Our Stories, 5.15 Harlem Globetrotters: Play It Forward, 6.00 Bamay, 6.40 Colombia's Wild Coast, New, 7.30 Australia In Colour, Final, 8.30 Island Echoes With Normie Bero, 9.00 MOVIE: The Drover's Wife, (2021) 10.55 MOVIE: Ten Canoes, (2006) 12.30 Bastardy, 2.00 Late Programs.

**SBS (3)** 6.00 Morning Programs, 12.30 ABC World News Tonight, 1.00 PBS News, 2.00 Great Australian Railway Journeys, 3.10 Destination Flavour China, 3.40 The Cook Up, 4.10 Britain By Beach, 5.05 Jeopardy!, 5.30 Letters And Numbers, 6.00 Mastermind Australia, 6.30 News, 7.35 The Real Crown: Inside The House Of Windsor, 8.30 Michael Palin: Into Iraq, 9.25 The Night Manager, 10.35 SBS News, 11.05 Pagan Peak, 11.55 Rogue Heroes, 1.00 Soldiers, 1.55 Late Programs.

**SBS VLND (31)** 6.00 Morning Programs, 11.35 Front Up, 12.10 France 24 English News, 12.40 Hudson & Rex, 2.20 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 Alone, 7.05 Jeopardy!, 7.35 8 Out Of 10 Cats, 8.30 1982: The Greatest Geek Year Ever, 9.15 MOVIE: Attack Force Z, (1991) John Phillip Law, 11.00 MOVIE: Son Of A Gun, (2014) 12.45 Letterkenny, 2.10 Late Programs.

**SBS MOVIES (32)** 6.00 The 400 Blows, (1959, French) 7.40 Oliver! (1968) 10.20 Arctic, (2018) 12.40 Stay, (2005) 2.10 Rabbit-Proof Fence, (2002) 3.50 Walking On Sunshine, (2014) 5.40 The Importance Of Being Earnest, (1952) Michael Redgrave, 7.30 The Glorias, (2020) Julianne Moore, Alicia Vikander, 10.10 Down With Love, (2013) Renée Zellweger, Ewan McGregor, 12.10 I'm Gilda, (2016, Spanish) 2.20 Son Of A Gun, (2014) 4.20 The Movie Show, 4.55 The Importance Of Being Earnest, (1952)

**SEVEN (6)** 6.00 Sunrise, 9.00 The Morning Show, 12.00 Seven's National News At Noon, 1.00 MOVIE: Morning Show Mysteries: A Murder In The Mind, (2019) 3.00 The Chase, 4.00 News, 5.00 The Chase Australia, 6.00 News, 7.00 Home And Away, 7.30 Cricket, Big Bash League, The Knockout, 11.00 BBL Post-Game, 11.30 Unbelievable Moments Caught On Camera, 12.30 Cycling, Santos Tour Down Under, Men's, Stage 2, Highlights, 1.30 Black-ish, 2.00 Late Programs.

**7TWO (62)** 6.00 Shopping, 6.30 Escape To The Country, 7.30 Harry's Practice, 8.00 Million Dollar Minute, 9.00 Animal Rescue, 9.30 NBC Today, 12.00 Better Homes, 1.00 Escape To The Country, 2.00 TBA, 2.30 Air Crash Inv, 3.30 Harry's Practice, 4.00 Animal Rescue, 4.30 Better Homes, 5.30 Escape To The Country, 6.30 Bargain Hunt, 7.30 Heartbeat, 8.45 The Inspector Lynley Mysteries, 10.45 Law & Order: UK, 11.45 Bargain Hunt, 12.45 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 American Pickers, 11.00 Pawn Stars, 11.30 Cycling, Santos Tour Down Under, Men's, Stage 2, 3.30 Full Custom Garage, 4.30 Storage Wars, 5.00 American Resto, 5.30 American Pickers, 6.30 Pawn Stars, 7.00 Big Bash League Pre-Game, 7.30 Highway Patrol, 8.30 The Force: BTL, 9.30 World's Wildest Police Videos, 10.30 Surviving The Moment Of Impact, 11.30 Late Programs.

**NINE (8)** 6.00 Today, 10.00 Australian Open Tennis Pre-Show, 11.00 Tennis, Australian Open, Day 11, 4.00 Tennis, Australian Open, Afternoon 11, 6.00 9News, 7.00 Tennis, Australian Open, Night 11, 11.00 Tennis, Australian Open, Late night 11, 12.00 New Amsterdam, 1.00 Hello SA, 1.30 TV Shop, 2.30 Global Shop, 3.00 TV Shop, 4.00 Believer's Voice Of Victory, 4.30 GolfBarons, 5.00 Today Early News, 5.30 Today.

**9GEM (81)** 6.00 Danger Man, 7.00 Creflo, 7.30 Skippy, 8.00 TV Shop, 10.30 The Baron, 11.30 My Favorite Martian, 12.00 Days Of Our Lives, 12.55 The Young And The Restless, 2.00 Antiques Roadshow, 2.30 MOVIE: Seven Days To Noon, (1950) 4.30 Escape To The Farm With Kate Humble, 5.30 Antiques Roadshow, 6.00 Tennis, Australian Open, Afternoon 11, 7.00 Antiques Roadshow, 7.30 The Manor Born, 8.40 Midsomer Murders, 10.40 Queens Of Mystery, 12.35 Late Programs.

**9GO! (82)** 6.00 Morning Programs, 10.00 Ninjago, 10.30 Pokémon Horizons: The Series, 11.00 Transformers: Cyberverse, 11.30 Teen Titans Go! 12.00 Hart Of Dixie, 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 News, 6.00 The Golden Girls, 6.30 The Nanny, 7.30 Seinfeld, 8.30 MOVIE: The Matrix Revolutions, (2003) Keanu Reeves, 11.00 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 I'm A Celebrity... Get Me Out Of Here! 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 I'm A Celebrity... Get Me Out Of Here! 9.00 Elsbeth, New, 10.00 NCIS: Hawaii!, Return, 10.55 News, 11.20 The Project, 12.25 Late Programs.

**10 BOLD (53)** 6.00 Home Shopping, 8.00 NBL Slam, 8.30 Jake And The Fatman, 9.30 Diagnosis Murder, 11.30 JAG, 1.30 Star Trek: Voyager, 2.30 Jake And The Fatman, 3.30 Diagnosis Murder, 5.30 JAG, 7.30 NCIS, 9.25 NCIS: New Orleans, 11.15 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 Rules Of Engagement, 1.30 King Of Queens, 2.00 TBA, 3.30 Rules Of Engagement, 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 Rules Of Engagement, 11.00 Impractical Jokers, 11.30 Late Programs.

**ABC TV (2)** 6.00 News, 9.00 News, 10.00 Eat The Invaders, 10.30 Back Roads, 11.00 Antiques Roadshow, 12.00 News, 1.00 Kumi's Japan, 2.00 Fake Or Fortune?, 3.00 Back Roads, 3.30 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 Back Roads, 8.30 Long Lost Family, 9.20 Grand Designs, 10.10 Dr Karl's How Things Work, 10.40 News, 11.00 Escaping Utopia, 12.00 Grand Designs, 12.45 Late Programs.

**ABC FAMILY (22)** 6.00 Kids' Programs, 2.45 Beep And Mort, 3.00 Play School: Let The Games Begin, 3.50 Andy's Safari 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!, 8.35 Secrets Of The Zoo, 9.20 72 Cutest Animals, 9.45 Doctor Who, 10.40 Mythbusters "There's Your Problem!", 11.10 Late Programs.

**NITV (34)** 6.00 Morning Programs, 2.00 Faboriginal, 2.30 The Cook Up, 3.00 Waabiny Time, 3.35 Spartakus And The Sun Beneath The Sea, 4.05 Mysterious Cities Of Gold, 4.35 Motown Magic, 5.00 Our Stories, 5.15 Harlem Globetrotters: Play It Forward, 6.00 Bamay, 6.40 Colombia's Wild Coast, 7.30 Going Places, 8.30 MOVIE: Sweet As, (2022) 9.55 MOVIE: Putiputti And The Rainmakers, (2015) 11.35 MOVIE: The Tracker, (2002) 1.20 Incarceration Nation, 3.00 Late Programs.

**SBS (3)** 6.00 Morning Programs, 12.00 BBC News At Ten, 12.30 ABC World News Tonight, 1.00 PBS News, 2.00 Great Australian Railway Journeys, 3.10 Destination Flavour China, 3.40 The Cook Up, 4.10 Britain By Beach, Final, 5.05 Jeopardy!, 5.30 Letters And Numbers, 6.00 Mastermind Australia, 6.30 News, 7.35 Outback Adventures In Western Australia, 8.30 Silk Road From Above, 9.30 The Darkness, 10.25 SBS News, 10.55 Divided We Stand, New, 12.45 Blanca, 2.45 Late Programs.

**SBS VLND (31)** 6.00 Morning Programs, 8.40 CBC The National, 9.30 BBC News At Ten, 10.00 Front Up, 12.15 France 24 English News, 12.45 The Gig Is Up, 2.20 Overlooked, Final, 2.50 Insight, 3.50 BBC News At Ten, 4.20 ABC World News Tonight, 4.50 PBS News, 5.50 Alone, 7.05 Jeopardy!, 7.35 8 Out Of 10 Cats, 8.30 The Curse Of Oak Island, 10.10 Homicide, 12.55 MOVIE: All The Beauty And The Bloodshed, (2022) 3.10 NHK World English News, 5.00 Al Jazeera.

**SBS MOVIES (32)** 6.00 The Importance Of Being Earnest, (1952) 6.45 The Wild Duck, (1983) 8.35 I Capture The Castle, (2003) 10.40 The Furnace, (2020) 12.50 I'm Gilda, (2016, Spanish) 3.00 Oliver! (1968) 5.40 The Man Who Knew Infinity, (2015) Dev Patel, 7.40 Infinite Storm, (2022) Naomi Watts, 9.30 Haywire, (2011) Gina Carano, 11.10 The Adopters, (2019, Spanish) Diego Gentile, 1.10 Sound Of Metal, (2019) 3.25 Down With Love, (2003) 5.25 The Movie Show.

**SEVEN (6)** 6.00 Sunrise, 9.00 The Morning Show, 12.00 Seven's National News At Noon, 1.00 MOVIE: Morning Show Mysteries: Countdown To Murder, (2019) 3.00 The Chase, 4.00 News, 5.00 The Chase Australia, 6.00 News, 7.00 Home And Away, 7.30 Cricket, The Women's Ashes, Twenty20 International Series, Australia v England, Game 2, 10.30 Seven's Cricket, The Spin, 11.15 Pam & Tommy, 12.15 Cycling, Santos Tour Down Under, Men's, Stage 3, Highlights, 1.15 Late Programs.

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

**7MATE (64)** 6.00 Morning Programs, 11.00 Pawn Stars, 11.30 Cycling, Santos Tour Down Under, Men's, Stage 3, 4.00 Billy The Exterminator, 4.30 Storage Wars, 5.00 American Resto, 5.30 American Pickers, 6.30 Pawn Stars, 7.00 Cricket, The Women's Ashes, Twenty20 International Series, Australia v England, Game 2, 7.30 Pawn Stars Do America, 8.30 MOVIE: Spider-Man: Homecoming, (2017) Tom Holland, 11.15 MOVIE: Major League, (1989) 1.30 Late Programs.

**NINE (8)** 6.00 Today, 9.00 Today Extra, 10.30 Australian Open Tennis Pre-Show, 11.30 Tennis, Australian Open, Day 12, 3.30 Tennis, Australian Open, Afternoon 12, 4.30 Tipping Point, 5.00 Tipping Point Australia, 6.00 9News, 7.00 Tennis, Australian Open, Night 12, 11.00 Tennis, Australian Open, Late night 12, 12.00 New Amsterdam, 1.00 First On Scene, 1.30 TV Shop, 2.30 Global Shop, 3.00 TV Shop, 4.00 Believer's Voice Of Victory, 4.30 GolfBarons, 5.00 Today Early News, 5.30 Today.

**9GEM (81)** 6.00 Danger Man, 7.00 Creflo, 7.30 Skippy, 8.00 TV Shop, 10.30 The Baron, 11.30 My Favorite Martian, 12.00 Days Of Our Lives, 12.55 The Young And The Restless, 1.50 To The Manor Born, 3.10 Antiques Roadshow, 3.40 MOVIE: The Loves Of Joanna Godden, (1947) 5.30 Escape To The Farm With Kate Humble, 6.30 Antiques Roadshow, 7.30 Keeping Up Appearances, 8.40 Poirot, 10.40 Dalgliesh, 11.40 Motorway Cop: Catching Britain's Speeders, 12.40 Late Programs.

**9GO! (82)** 6.00 Morning Programs, 9.30 Yu-Gi-Oh! Sevens, 10.00 Ninjago, 10.30 Pokémon Horizons: The Series, 11.00 Transformers: Cyberverse, 11.30 Teen Titans Go! 12.00 Hart Of Dixie, 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 News, 6.00 The Golden Girls, 6.30 The Nanny, 7.30 Seinfeld, 8.30 MOVIE: Shallow Hal, (2001) Jack Black, 11.00 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 I'm A Celebrity... Get Me Out Of Here! 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 I'm A Celebrity... Get Me Out Of Here! 9.00 The Graham Norton Show, 10.10 News, 10.35 The Project, 11.35 Late Programs.

**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 Star Trek: Voyager, 2.30 Jake And The Fatman, 3.30 Diagnosis Murder, 5.30 JAG, 7.30 NCIS, 9.25 NCIS: New Orleans, 11.15 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 Rules Of Engagement, 1.30 King Of Queens, 2.00 TBA, 3.30 Rules Of Engagement, 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 Rules Of Engagement, 11.00 Impractical Jokers, 11.30 Late Programs.



## Bushfire Impacted Farmers Welcome Recovery Support

Photo by Matt Palmer on Unsplash.



## Managing Livestock and Heat Stress

Dr. Jeff Cave, Agriculture Victoria Senior Veterinary Officer

As we move through summer, heat stress in livestock can become a major issue both for production levels and animal welfare, but there are precautions that you can take.

The ideal temperature range for cattle is between 5 and 25°C, and for adult pigs just 18 to 20°C.

It is important to remember high producing livestock, such as dairy cows, are the animals most sensitive to heat stress. Poultry have been known to perish due to heat stress on very hot days.

As temperatures rise, animals use their energy to cool themselves – this results in reduced production or weight gain. Feed intake is also reduced further increasing these impacts.

High humidity can also play a significant role in heat stress. For any given temperature, the degree of heat stress increases as the relative humidity increases.

Heat stress can significantly impact the production and animal welfare of your stock. Check your livestock daily, looking for any signs of stress during hot weather.

Heat stressed livestock will seek out shade, drink more, eat less, stand rather than laying down, pant, may produce less milk and can be less fertile.



On hot days, give livestock unlimited access to shade or shelter and good quality, cool drinking water. Make sure you are ready to implement your fire plan.

Avoid moving animals during the hottest part of the day and try to avoid on extreme days.

High quality feed should be given during the evening when it is cooler, as livestock are more likely to consume it.

If you are not living at a property, arrange for a neighbour to check on animals in your absence.

By making some minor management changes and taking a little extra care of your livestock in extreme hot weather, the effects of heat stress can be substantially reduced delivering better welfare and production outcomes.

For further information please contact your local veterinarian or Agriculture Victoria veterinary or animal health officer, or in NSW your Local Land Services.

The Victorian Farmers Federation (VFF) has welcomed the Federal Government's Disaster Recovery Allowance for those impacted by the Grampians National Park and Macedon Ranges bushfires and is praising local communities and farmers for heeding warnings ahead of the blazes.

VFF President Brett Hosking said while farming impact assessments are still underway, early indications suggest many farmers took early action well before the bushfires took hold.

"Early indications suggest widespread stock losses have been kept to a minimum, with the majority of farm impacts being shed losses, destroyed fencing and burnt pastures.

"I want to stress impact assessments are still under way, but at this stage it looks as though communities have heeded the warnings and prepared in the days before the worst fire conditions arrived.

"I would like to extend a huge thank you to the emergency services helping to keep our communities safe

and the farmers that took measures to prepare their farms before the fire arrived.

"For those who have been impacted, it's devastating, and we're continuing to work with the government to ensure support gets to those who need it. I intend to visit the Grampians region later this week to get a first-hand look at the damage and hear directly from impacted members.

"It never ceases to amaze me how the community pulls together in times like these, especially the truck drivers and companies who are delivering fodder to burnt out farmers off their own back. I'll be raising with decision makers the potential of government assisted subsidies to support these drivers to

continue their vital work," Mr Hosking said.

For those wishing to lend a helping hand, the VFF's Disaster Relief Fund is taking monetary donations. The VFF Disaster Relief Fund is an independent charity that assists regional Victorians, including farmers through natural disasters.

"Those wishing to lend a helping hand can donate to the VFF's Disaster Relief Fund. Donations are tax deductible and go directly to those impacted by the fires," Mr Hosking said.

People wishing to directly support farmers impacted by bushfire can donate to the registered independent charity, the VFF Disaster Relief Fund online: [www.vff.org.au/vffdisasterrelieffund/](http://www.vff.org.au/vffdisasterrelieffund/)

## Be on the Lookout for Marmorated Stink Bug

Victorians are being urged to remain vigilant and keep an eye out for the Brown Marmorated Stink Bug (BMSB), a highly invasive pest that poses a significant threat to agriculture and households alike.

### Where Does BMSB Come From?

The Brown Marmorated Stink Bug is native to China, Japan, Taiwan, and the Korean Peninsula. Over time, it has spread to the United States and Europe, intensifying the risk of it reaching Australian shores.

This pest is particularly adept at sneaking across borders by hiding inside imported shipping containers, machinery, goods, and packaging – especially during the "brown marmorated stink bug risk season," which spans from September to April.

### A Threat to Victoria

Although the BMSB is not yet established in Australia, its presence was first detected in Victoria during the summer of 2018–2019. The bug hitchhiked on imported goods and was found in areas such as:

- Clayton
- Dandenong South
- Port Melbourne

In response, authorities conducted extensive surveillance in these areas to prevent the pest from spreading and establishing itself in Victoria. While no further detections were made, vigilance is essential to ensure none took shelter during the winter months.

### Why is BMSB Dangerous?

The Brown Marmorated Stink Bug is an economically damaging pest capable of attacking over 300 types of crops and ornamental trees. Its presence could devastate fruit and vegetable growers and become a major nuisance



for households due to its habit of invading homes, sheds, and vehicles.

### How You Can Help

Victorians are encouraged to inspect their homes, workplaces, vehicles, machinery, sheds, and gardens for this destructive pest. This is especially critical if you grow fruit or vegetables.

Check your luggage and packages when returning to Victoria from Asia, North America, Chile, or Europe to ensure you have not brought any pests, including the BMSB, with you.

If you receive goods directly from overseas (including online shopping parcels), look out for BMSB and other pests that may have stowed away in goods or packaging.

If you suspect you've found a Brown Marmorated Stink Bug – or any other unusual insect – take the following steps:

- Catch it in a secure container.
- Report it immediately by calling the Exotic Plant Pest Hotline at 1800 084 881.
- Visit the Agriculture Victoria website at [www.agriculture.vic.gov.au/bmsb](http://www.agriculture.vic.gov.au/bmsb) for more information.

### Protecting Victoria's Borders

Preventing the establishment of the Brown Marmorated Stink Bug in Victoria is a shared responsibility. By staying vigilant and reporting any suspicious findings, you can help safeguard the state's agriculture, environment, and households from this invasive pest.

## What's On

### How Can I Help? Supporting Farmer Wellbeing for Service Providers

Are you an agricultural service provider in Victoria looking to learn some handy tips when working with clients experiencing high levels of stress?

Agriculture Victoria has engaged National Centre for Farmer Health to deliver the free webinar, "How can I help? Supporting farmer wellbeing for service providers".

**When:** Thursday, January 30. 12 pm – 1 pm

**Where:** Online

**To register:** <https://agriculture.vic.gov.au/support-and-resources/event-listing/how-can-i-help-supporting-farmer-wellbeing-for-service-providers>

### GRDC Herbicide Behaviour Workshops

These workshops will be delivered by ICAN Senior Consultant, Mark Congreve, and will take agronomists on a deep dive into herbicide modes of action, including the biological pathways and environmental factors that influence herbicide performance and interactions that may occur when products are mixed. Water quality, adjuvant choice and spray quality are also popular discussion topics.

**Cost:** \$275 (GST inclusive)

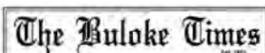
**Horsham:** Tuesday and Wednesday, February 11 and 12. Horsham Golf Club, 304 Golf Course Road Haven (via Horsham), VIC 3401.

**Bendigo:** Thursday and Friday, February 13 and 14.

The National Hotel Complex, 182-186 High Street Bendigo, VIC 3550.

Both events start 8 a.m. on day one and finish by 1 p.m. on day two.

**To register:** <https://grdc.com.au/events/list>



### 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.**

# Busy Time for Golf Bowlers

Since Pennant commitments ceased before Christmas, Donald Golf bowlers have played a host of club events.

Bill Livingston was successful in winning the men's club championships by defeating Geoff Rigby in the final. Brian Bayles took out the "B" grade final by beating Tony Dionisopoulos. It was a case of "back-to-back" championship wins for both players.

David Peake was successful in winning the 21-up by

defeating Robert Reseigh and Adrian Humphrey beat Geoff Rigby in the final of the 100-up.

With the resumption of Pennant on Saturday 18th of January, Golf defeated St Arnaud Country Club in Division 1 and 2.

In Division 1, "Stumpy" Hibberd suffered a rare loss to Jason Abbott's troops, 14-28

shots. After a close encounter to end 16, Daniel Pettifer's team won the final ten ends to win convincingly, 31-16. Geoff Rigby's team completely outplayed Bill Rodger's team to win 40-14.

In Division 2, David Peake's team recorded a strong 39-26 win against Phil Elliott. Evergreen skip George Wood had a hard

fought 24-19 win against Chris Webb's team. Brenda Dixon's rise to skipper was successful with a pleasing 19-16 win against Arnold Bond's men.

The wins in both Divisions consolidates Golf's position on the ladder. Golf's Mid-week Pennant team is also playing well and is currently placed second on the ladder.



• Championship winner Richard Haddrick.

## Richard Haddrick Wins Championship

Birchip Bowls Club held its men's singles championship just prior to Christmas.

Twelve players turned up and all thought they were in with a chance, which led to an interesting day of bowls

The early rounds saw some good contests with Mick Spicer defeating Grant Cartwright, who was subsequently beaten by Owen Reid. Richard Haddrick had also started the day well defeating Ray Barr and thus he had to play Owen, in a match he also won.

On the other side of the draw Tony Doran beat "Trolley" and "Frogga" in the early rounds but was then rolled by Kevin Reid, who had knocked out Andrew Lee in the quarter finals.

The final two left to play for the championship were Richard and Kevin. Both

players had represented the Murray Mallee region a week earlier against the Wimmera region, so the cream of the club did rise to the top.

The final itself was tight from the start and nothing changed until Richard strung a few ends together late. This was all that was needed for him to win his first championship since arriving at Birchip a few years back. Kevin has been a multiple winner in the past.

The clubs men's pairs was also played pre-Christmas. Each pair played five games each in a round robin format with Des Ryan and Waffle Grogan taking all before them, winning four games and drawing one.

"You gotta be up"



• Brian Bayles (left) and Bill Livingston (right).



• David Peake – 21-up winner.

## 2024.5 | 7 YEARS ROADSIDE ASSIST & GAP PRICE SERVICING

# END OF YEAR CLEARANCE

ABN Discount Prices



**MY 2024.50 Range** ~~XXXXXX~~ Pick up, Aluminium, Leather Seats, ARB Bull Bar, Boss Tray, Air Bags **\$94,700** Drive Away

**MY 2024 Everest Trend** 2.0Ltr Bi-Turbo, 4x4, Towing Pack, 18Inch A/T Tyres, Arctic White **\$70,490** Drive Away

**MY 2024.50 Ranger** Dual Cab, Sport, 3.0Ltr V6 Diesel, 10 Spd Auto 4x4, Arctic White, Sport Embossed Seats, Flexible Rack System **\$76,000** Drive Away  
\$3000 gift card or discount on advertised Ranger Utes

**MY 2024.50 Ranger** Dual Cab, XLT, 2.0Ltr Bi-turbo Diesel, 10 Spd Auto 4x4, Aluminium, Premium Cloth Seat Trim, Touring Pack **\$65,900** Drive Away  
\$3000 gift card or discount on advertised Ranger Utes

**MY 2024.50 Ranger** Dual Cab Raptor 3.0Ltr V6 Petrol, 10 Spd Auto 4x4, Arctic White, Raptor Embossed Leather Seats, Power Roll Shutter **\$97,500** Drive Away  
\$3000 gift card or discount on advertised Ranger Utes

**2023 F-150** Double Cab (crew cab) Lariat Series, 3.5Ltr V6 Petrol, 10 Spd SWB **\$132,000** Drive Away  
NOVEMBER END OF YEAR RUNOUT

**My 2024.50 Transit Custom Trend** 2.0L Diesel, 8spd, Automatic, Frozen White/BlackOnyx, Load Area Protection Kit **\$59,200** Drive Away

Please call  
Duane Johns 0434 566 830 or  
Tye Sibley 0409 286 614 for further information

**Michaels of Donald**  
13-15 McCulloch St, DONALD Ph. 54971203 LMCT 6873

# Barefoot Bowls

After a short Christmas/New Year Break, the Donald Bowls Club has been very active.

The club opened the New Year with Barefoot Bowls on the Wednesday evening of January 8. This event is over three nights in January, 8th, 15th and 22nd as a social event. The purpose is to invite friends and new players for a friendly get-together and play bowls, preceded by a barbecue tea and followed by supper. Peter Raines and team, Debbie Adams, Robert Adams and Adrian Humphrey won the three games.

During the same day, (8th), the ladies single championship final was played. Congratulations went to Lindy Morgan as the winner. Marg Quick was the runner-up. Marg had challenged Lindy earlier on in the game, but Lindy drew away after achieving a four on the 22nd end. The other games leading to the final were close, Marg defeating Brenda Brennan by three and Marion McEwen defeating Bo Subprom by six.

The second barefoot bowls game on January 15 was enjoyed by 33 players. The evening opened with a "Spider" – bowling to a \$10 note. This was won by young Huxley Rogers. The nearest to the ditch was won by Brenda Brennan. The competition had more than one two-game winners, but the team with the biggest margin was skipper Peter Kelly, Siane Martin, Murray, Tony Dionosopolous.

The men's championship was played on Thursday, January 17 and was won by Norm Hollis over John Howley. Norm won three games on the day; drew Ian McEwen first and won 25-11 then played last year's winner, Hunter Wingfield. He beat Hunter 21-15 and in the final against John, he beat him 25-9. It is the 17th time Norm has won the men's single championship, congratulations were extended for such an achievement.

The Donald Hotel triples was won by Trevor Farrer, Brenda Brennan, Lindy

Morgan. The afternoon competition was followed by club members enjoying a meal to-

gether at the Donald Hotel, with the winners using their prize winning vouchers.



• John Howley and Norm Hollis.



• Margaret Quick and Lindy Morgan.



• Left to right: Adrian Humphrey, Robert Adams, Debbie Adams, and Peter Raynes.



• Tony Dionosopolous, Murray, Siane Martin, Huxley Rogers, and Peter Kelly.

## Monitor for Blue-green Algae in Stock Water

(By Alison Lee, Principal Veterinary Officer, Small Ruminants)

Livestock owners should look for signs of blue-green algae when inspecting farm dams, troughs and other water sources, particularly during the warmer months, when algal blooms are more likely to occur.

Blue-green algae, also known as cyanobacteria, are bacteria that can multiply rapidly under certain conditions.

Blue-green algae is more likely to occur when the water is warm and enriched with nutrients like phosphorus or nitrogen.

While blue-green algal blooms typically appear as green paint-like surface scum in water, they can also be reddish-purple or brown in colour. It can be difficult to tell blue-green algae from other less toxic algal species.

### Toxins

Blue-green algae may contain toxins that damage the liver or nervous system. Drinking contaminated water can kill livestock quickly and

a number of livestock may be affected at the same time.

Animals exposed to affected water supplies may continue to die over a prolonged period. In milder cases, productivity losses may occur, which in dairy cattle may be seen as decreased milk yield.

If a suspicious bloom is found, farmers should move their stock to an area on the property with a safe alternative water source.

Farmers should plan for managing water availability in the event that a blue-green algal bloom impacts their primary livestock drinking water supply.

### Plan

The plan should include calculating how much water

livestock would require if the primary water supply was unsafe to drink and identifying additional alternative on-farm water supplies that could be utilised quickly.

In the medium-term, your plan could include improving water reticulation systems, considering options for treating blue-green algae affected water, or agisting your stock elsewhere until your farm water is safe again.

A range of useful information such as the Blue-green algae: options for livestock drinking water factsheet is available from the Blue-green algae page on the website: <https://agriculture.vic.gov.au/farm-management/water/blue-green-algae-in-water/blue-green-algae>

## Regional Housing Fund Snub: Mallee Kicked to the Kerb

Mallee's housing shortage is not being helped by the Labor Government, after Thursday's regional component of a Government Housing Support Program (HSP) announcement overlooked Mallee with one Shire particularly upset its application was rejected.

Member for Mallee, Dr Anne Webster, said the Coalition's focus on regional housing is demonstrated by their commitment for \$1.5 billion to enable regional housing.

"I stand shoulder to shoulder with our Mallee shires who desperately need housing and have been kicked to the kerb by Labor's rejection yesterday," Dr. Webster said.

"Suburbtrends identified 3 of Victoria's 6 regional local government areas that are highest on the rental pain index as being in Mallee –

Northern Grampians (2nd), Swan Hill (4th) and Yarriambiack (6th) while Horsham (18th) and Mildura (19th) saw Mallee over-represented in the 20 worst performing shires."

Yarriambiack Shire Mayor Kylie Zanker said: "As a Mayor, to say our council is disappointed is an understatement. We work relentlessly 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."

Dr Webster said in September that Labor's home-grown cost-of-living crisis and reckless immigration policies were adding fuel to the housing affordability bonfire.

The successful Victorian HSP projects were at Ararat, Beaufort, Marong, Morwell and the Whittlesea Council.

"I have written to the Australian National Audit Office to investigate the allocation of funding under this program, and whether it was genuinely determined on the basis of merit and need," Dr Webster said.

Shoppers, support your local traders — use them or lose them!

# Wycheproof Bowls Wrap

(By "Barefoot President")

I hope all bowlers from all the teams across the competition had a safe and wonderful festive season.

It certainly did not seem like a break. Things remained busy at our club and I am sure the administrators of other clubs and of the North Central playing area would say the same.

During this time the club hosted the State Pairs. Congratulations to Steven Zsigmond and Hunter Wingfield, who will represent our playing area well.

Wycheproof also hosted the Wimmera versus Murray-Mallee challenge and it was a great day for the club with some fantastic bowls on the greens. It is fun welcoming back a lot of the familiar faces that make quite a trip for this day. The selectors for these teams really have their work cut out for them. Congratulations to all bowlers representing the North Central in this competition and especially to those that made the Wimmera side that travelled to Ballarat this past weekend, including Jonathan Grylls, from our club.

## Club Singles

Our men's Club Singles Champion was decided during this time. Congratulations to Jason McKay for taking out the title this year. The final between Jason and Jonathan Grylls was a gripping match – the scores were close the whole way through. That is another new name to our champion board, and there are still others at this club who I am sure will join

them, such is the depth of bowlers we have.

On that depth, I'd like to thank all the bowlers who stepped in to help out during the rounds of pennant when we had players missing. Now comes the very hard time of year for selectors to pick sides from all available players and therefore having others step back down a grade or out of the side entirely. I thank all Wycheproof bowlers for taking these changes graciously, as we simply are in a unique situation with our club (and the new rule approaching the last three rounds has not made things easier).

## Classic Triples

And then to the busiest and hardest two days, but really three, on and off the greens: The Wycheproof Classic Triples. Once again, we had tremendous support from across the state. More teams each year turn up for a Monday night prelude. Unfortunately, rain held back the preparations so we were not able to organise some fun activities on the Monday, but teams that showed up at least got to have a roll and some beverages afterwards.

The two days of competition were fantastic, with many bowlers enjoying the greens and each other's company.

The finals came down to teams from Terang, Murray-Downs/Wycheproof, Wedderburn/Bendigo and Swan Hill Race Course. A couple of

those teams were surprised to find themselves in finals and ready for an early exit, but the tight nature of two of the sections meant the winners were not determined until the last game was played. With teams getting through that had lost games, it also meant there were at least ten other teams thinking, "That could have been us... if only for that last shot" or "We should not have dropped that game," and so on. A tight competition gets everyone thinking and more determined for next year.

In the end, the final came down to the team that did win all five of their sectional games: Laurie Witham, Damien Mason and Luke Hoskin. They took on the Terang team of Barry Stonehouse, Trevor Reece and the one known as "Kennedy". Whilst some may have predicted a one-sided affair, it was anything but. The Hoskin-led side got out to an early lead, but the Terang boys fought back with a couple of brilliant bowls from Reece. They were also holding at least 4 shots on the second last end before Hoskin drove the kitty into the ditch with the last bowl, allowing his team to take an unassailable lead into the last end, and therefore, on to winning this year's Classics.

## Support

As a club, we'd like to thank all bowlers for their support of this event. We really do attract a great bunch of people with whom to spend an enjoyable few days (and nights).

As president, I would like to say a big thank-you and congratulations to our members and all other helpers who pitched in. Having two greens running for such a long time is hard work and Alan "Spike" Jones and a team of helpers have done a fantastic job. Several bowlers lamented not being able to bowl on greens as good as these. To the ladies who put on the food – well done. We only have a small number of lady members, so it was great to see partners, mums and others volunteer their time and culinary skills for the two days. Thanks to all the members who helped out with raffles, the bar and setting and packing up. Running these days is a lot of work, but it is all



• Classic Triples 2025 winners, from left: Luke Hoskin, Laurie Witham, and Damien Mason.



• Classic Triples 2025 runners-up, from left, "Kennedy", Barry Stonehouse, and Trevor Reece.



• Wycheproof Club Singles runner-up Jonathan Grylls (left) and winner, Jason McKay.

worth it when things go as smoothly as they did.

A massive thank you to all of our sponsors who also make these days possible. We have a lot of support from companies and businesses large and small and we appreciate every contribution made.

This week, I'll give a shout-out to Hommy's Butchers. Expatriate, Matthew, has

been a big supporter of our Classics and he always pitches in when he returns home. Other sponsors who contributed directly to the day included: Bakery on Broadway, IGA, Terminus Hotel, Wycheproof Motor Inn, McLennans, Wycheproof Mechanical Repairs and our major raffle prize of '2 Nights Stay and Play' from Club

Barham. (I will get to other sponsors in other articles).

And now the pennant fun begins again. All Wycheproof teams are in finals contention, so let's hope we can go on and qualify all three and then take it from there. Good luck to all teams for the rest of the season. Hope to see you on the greens soon.

Have fun!

## Make Precautions a Priority

The Nationals' Member for Mildura, Jade Benham, has issued a reminder to local residents to make fire preparation a priority this summer.

"With our region's hot, dry summer, it's vital that everyone takes steps to protect themselves, their families, and their properties from the risk of bushfires and grassfires," Ms Benham said.

"That means proper precautions when using farm machinery, whilst out camping and driving around the region. It only takes one spark in our conditions for fire to erupt.

"We've recently seen an enduring hay shed fire at Dumosa once again so fire safety is something we shouldn't get complacent about at all.

"Remember to check haystacks often, don't light fires in the open air on days of total fire ban, obey the rules around campfires, clear vegetation around homes, and stay

updated on local fire warnings."

The CFA offers valuable advice to help stay prepared, including:

- Leave early on hot, dry, windy days if the fire danger rating is extreme or catastrophic.

- Understand your risk and plan ahead. Tell your family and friends when you will leave, where you'll go and how you will get there.

- Do not wait for an official warning before you leave as there may not be one.

- Plan for your pets and livestock by deciding early how you will care for them on high-risk days.

- Check conditions if traveling, including at your destination and along your route.

Stay informed through local radio stations for warnings and advice.

Ms Benham also extended her gratitude to local firefighters for their tireless efforts in fire prevention and community support.

"Our local firefighters have recently played a critical role in combatting the Grampians bushfires and remain prepared to assist other communities in need, including the potential deployment to Los Angeles to support their firefighting efforts. Their dedication and bravery are deeply appreciated," she said.



## Donald Hosts Wedderburn

A perfect summer day for bowls, no wind and an excellently prepared fast running green.

Donald did manage to win 3 rinks out of the six, but failed in both Divisions to win the day.

Hunter Winfield with Kelvin Adamson, Jack Collins and Trevor Farrer, had the closest of wins against the Laurie Witham's lot 21-20 in the end, although in front all day 20-11 on the 18th end to only win

one shot in the last seven ends and nearly blew it.

Conversely, Norm Hollis with Lindy Morgan, John Howley and Ian McEwen also came home by just one shot over Damian Mason 28-27 also well in front all day 27-16 on the 19th end, to also only win one shot in the last six ends. Is there a lesson there?

The Twos: One rink win to Beryl Milne's team with Alison McEwen, Sian Robertson and Joan Wood winning by three shots 27-21.

The very busy time of year saw many players not available, so thanks for all who made up the teams, also to Wedderburn playing a substitute in the Two's.

*Tiger in the Ditch*

# Crucial Round Coming Up

With just three rounds of North Central Playing Area's 2024-'25 pennant bowls season remaining, next Saturday's round 12 results will have a huge bearing on potential make up of the Division 1 final four.

Ladder leader Wedderburn will be at home to second placed St. Arnaud, while Wycheproof (currently fourth) hosts St. Arnaud Country Club (fifth).

For Country Club to have any chance of securing a finals berth, it must secure all 12 points against Wyche., and then achieve similar results against Charlton and Wedderburn.

A Wycheproof win would effectively slam the door on Country Club's aspirations.

The rivalry between Wedderburn and St. Arnaud can be intense at times, and next Saturday's clash promises to be one of the keenest recent contests. Wedderburn (100 points) holds top spot by 8 points from St. Arnaud (92), with Donald Golf (also on 92) separated only by percentage.

Last Saturday's results added to the intrigue of a season that continues to throw up unexpected results.

Boort secured one of its most impressive wins after defeating Wycheproof by 5 shots and bagging 10 points to 2.

Shayne Morris accounted for Grant Allan by 8 shots and Kevin Depiazza got home by 5 shots over Paul Wellington. Only Jono Grylls was able to pick up 2 points for Wyche. after finishing 8 shots to the better of Laurie Maxted.

For a few brief hours on Saturday evening, the local bowls network was abuzz with news that Donald had pulled off the heist of the season by downing top side Wedderburn. Contrary to the early results published on Bowslink, however, Wedderburn won the day, by 32 shots and 8 points to 4.

Donald scored two good wins, Hunter Wingfield sneaking in by 1 shot over Laurie Witham, and Norm Hollis downing Damien Mason by a similar margin.

When the first results came through on Bowslink, it indicated new skipper Tom Gravestocks had done a number on Wedderburn dynamo, Alan Jackson, to the tune of 45 shots to 10, giving his new club a massive scalp.

Unfortunately for Donald, the scores had inadvertently been reversed, and it was the Jackson quartet that had prevailed, carrying the day for the visitors.

Donald Golf strengthened its grip on a finals berth, defeating the visiting St. Arnaud Country Club by 25 shots and picking up 10 points to 2. (See details elsewhere in today's "Times".)

St. Arnaud stayed within striking distance of top spot with an all-the-way win over Charlton by 30 shots, Ash

Dyke accounting for Stephen Perry by 9 shots, Steve Zsigmond downing Ken North by 17, and Terry McSwain ending up 4 shots to the better of Kevin Willey.

## Division 2

Results in Division 2 and the scenario facing clubs focused on securing a finals berth are very similar to Div 1, with St. Arnaud Country Club (fifth), facing a season decider next Saturday against Wycheproof (first).

Against Boort last Saturday, Wycheproof reversed the result of the Div 1 encounter when it picked up all 12 points against Boort, thanks to wins by George Coatsworth by 16 shots over Greg Smith, Rob Grylls by 3 over Joan Earl, and Paul Connolly by 5 over Tony Matley.

In other results, St. Arnaud thrashed Charlton by 70 shots, Lloyd Goddard defeating Doug Gretgrix by 7 shots, Kerryn Dyke downing Gary Bateson by 19, and Laurence Goodwin enjoying a day out at Greg Wain's expense.

Donald had no answer to Wedderburn's depth of talent, and went down by 36 shots overall.

Beryl Milne did salvage a hard-earned win for Donald after outscoring fellow experienced campaigner, Ian



• St. Arnaud Country Club member Trevor McDonald lets loose his bowl, with Robert Reseigh watching on. Spotted in the background is Daniel Pettifer and Mark Esmore.

Hall, by 3 shots, but when Marion McEwen lost to Lance Standfield by 20, and Beth Hollis lowered her colours to John Grant, losing by 19, the day belonged to the visitors.

Donald Golf bounced back into the top four with an impressive win over the visiting St. Arnaud Country Club, achieving a 20-shot victory and banking all 12 points.

Details:  
**St. Arnaud 87-12 d. Charlton 57-0.**

Ash Dyke 27 d. Stephen Perry 18, Steven Zsigmond 38 d. Ken North 21, Terry McSwain 22 d. Kevin Willey 18.

**Donald 59-4 lost to Wedderburn 92-8.**

Hunter Wingfield 21 d. Laurie Witham 20, Norm

Hollis 28 d. Damien Mason 27, Tom Gravestocks 10 lost to Alan Jackson 45.

**Boort 59-10 d. Wycheproof 54-2.**

Shayne Morris 23 d. Grant Allan 15, Kevin Depiazza 21 d. Paul Wellington 16, Laurie Maxted 15 lost to Jono Grylls 23.

**Donald Golf 85-10 d. St. Arnaud Country Club 58-2.**

Peter Hibberd 14 lost to Jason Abbott 28, Daniel Pettifer 31 d. Mark Esmore 16, Geoff Rigby 40 d. Bill Rodger 14.

**St. Arnaud 113-12 d. Charlton 43-0.**

Lloyd Goddard 27 d. Doug Gretgrix 20, Kerryn Dyke 34

d. Gary Bateson 15, Laurence Goodwin 52 d. Greg Wain 8.

**Donald 50-2 lost to Wedderburn 86-10.**

Beryl Milne 24 d. Ian Hall 21, Marion McEwen 14 lost to Lance Standfield 34, Beth Hollis 12 lost to John Grant 31.

**Boort 52-0 lost to Wycheproof 76-12.**

Greg Smith 12 lost to George Coatsworth 28, Joan Earl 19 lost to Rob Grylls 22, Tony Matley 21 lost to Paul Connolly 26.

**Donald Golf 81-12 d. St. Arnaud Country Club 61-0.**

Brenda Dixon 18 d. Arnold Bond 16, George Wood 24 d. Chris Webb 19, David Peake 39 d. Phil Elliott 26.



• Bowler for the country club Simon Elliott fires off his bowl; he is well known to be quite the aggressive bowler for his team!



• With his victory at the 100-up championship still fresh Adrian "AJ" Humphrey delivers his bowl.

## NORTH CENTRAL PENNANT BOWLS

Positions of Teams, after round 11

### DIVISION 1

	P	W	L	D	Bye	F	A	SD	%	Pts
Wedderburn	11	9	1	1	0	824	610	214	135	100
St. Arnaud	11	7	3	1	0	787	611	746	129	92
Donald Golf	11	8	2	1	0	769	614	155	125	92
Wycheproof	11	5	5	1	0	696	653	43	106	70
St. Arnaud Country Club	10	4	6	1	0	687	730	-43	94	59
Donald	11	4	6	1	0	657	793	-136	83	55
Boort	11	3	7	1	0	665	739	-74	90	48
Charlton	11	0	10	1	0	555	890	-335	62	12

### DIVISION 2

	P	W	L	D	Bye	F	A	SD	%	Pts
Wycheproof	11	8	2	1	0	793	553	240	143	104
Wedderburn	11	7	3	1	0	787	640	147	123	87
St. Arnaud	11	6	4	1	0	770	629	141	122	78
Donald Golf	11	6	4	1	0	711	682	29	101	76
St. Arnaud Country Club	11	6	4	1	0	725	680	45	113	69
Donald	11	3	7	1	0	549	744	-195	74	47
Boort	11	3	7	1	0	630	775	-145	81	40
Charlton	11	1	9	1	0	517	789	-272	6	27

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.

AMBULANCE PHONE NO.

000



## Carolyn's Birchip Club Champion

Another major event for the season has now been completed and it is congratulations to Carolyn Reid, the ladies club champion for the year.

Several ladies were unable to play due to injuries or ill health, but this did not stop the available ladies from participating in this event. The results are as follows:

Pauline Bragg defeated Jackie Tierney; Pauline then went on to play Carolyn Reid, in the next round, Carolyn winning to move to the grand final.

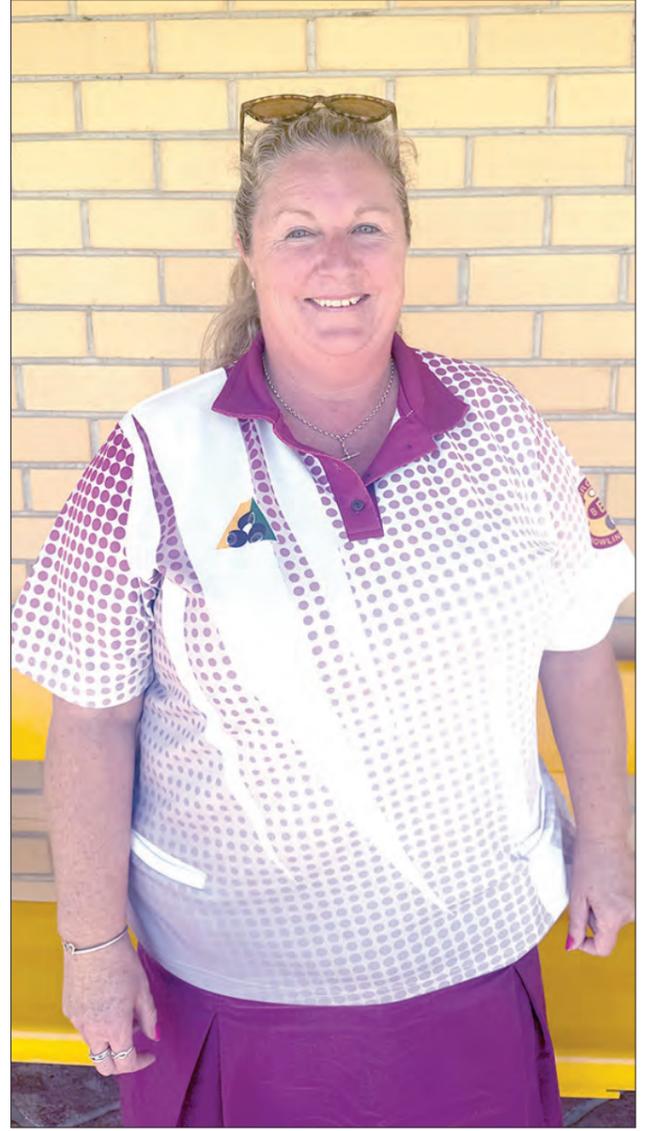
Jennifer Blainey defeated Moya Connelly; the final was played later in the day between Jennifer and Carolyn. The score card made for interesting reading as Carolyn got off to a very slow start. At the end of 10 ends Carolyn was 10 shots to Jennifer 14. Carolyn gradually bowled her way back into contention and it was 23 shots each on the 24th the end. On the 25th Carolyn scored two shots taking the championship from Jennifer, last season's champion.

### Christmas Bowls

Christmas bowls was held on December 16th, when a shared luncheon was enjoyed by 12 bowlers and visitors. Prior to lunch triples was played, the winners being Moya Connelly, Carolyn Reid and Michelle Bragg. Peg Hogan won the spider and ditch to ditch was won by Carolyn Bragg.

Social bowls resumed on January 9th.

The ladies of the club invite you to come along and try the game of bowls. No special



• Ladies Club Champion 2024, Carolyn Reid.

clothing required, only flat shoes (no heels). Bowls will be provided. If you are looking for a social outlet this is the place to be.

"Off the Green"



• Donald Club champion Norm Hollis (right) was pictured on Saturday with Wedderburn skipper Damien Mason.

## As a Bowls Champion, Norm's in His 'Teens

As the 2024-25 lawn bowls season continues, talented player Norm Hollis has emerged as the champion of the Donald Bowling Club – for the seventeenth time!

Norm's first title at the Donald Park-based club was in 1975. Prior to that, his main sporting interest was eleven years of football with the Donald club.

"I cracked a collarbone playing footy," said Norm. "That's why I took up bowls!"

### MIDWEEK PENNANT BOWLS

Positions of Teams, after round 11

	P	W	L	D	Bye	F	A	SD	%	Pts
Wycheproof	11	10	1	0	0	885	644	241	137	111
Donald Golf	11	8	3	0	0	829	695	134	119	90
Wedderburn	11	6	5	0	0	853	696	157	122	76
Boort	11	6	5	0	0	719	795	-76	90	68
St. Arnaud	11	5	6	0	0	638	755	-117	84	59
Charlton	11	4	7	0	0	667	699	-32	95	51
Donald	11	2	8	1	0	669	809	-140	83	38
St. Arnaud Country Club	11	2	8	1	0	694	861	-167	81	35

## Bowlers Return to the Green

After an enjoyable break over the festive season, North Central Playing Area's midweek pennant bowlers were back in action on Tuesday, contesting round 11, which leaves only three rounds remaining prior to the business end of this season's competition.

Boort made it a very positive and productive resumption, accounting for St. Arnaud Country Club by 18 shots and banking all 12 premiership points. The win sees it back in the top four, after displacing St. Arnaud.

St. Arnaud ran head on into a potent Wycheproof combination, which won all three rinks by a combined margin of 41 shots, ensuring it continues to preside over the remainder of the competition from top spot on the ladder.

Donald Golf (second) which defeated Charlton, and Wedderburn (third) which scored a comfortable victory over Donald, also look to be firmly entrenched in the top three spots and bound for the finals, leaving Boort (fourth), St. Arnaud (fifth) and possibly Charlton (sixth) competing for the remaining finals berth.

Boort held sway against St. Arnaud Country Club thanks to wins by John Gibson (by 2 shots) over Rhonda Pole, Laurie Maxted (by 8 shots) over Bill Rodger, and Thelma Moresi (by 8 shots) over Des Moulday.

St. Arnaud had no answer to the overall depth of talent in the Wycheproof teams, Alan Welsh going down to Aaron Mead by 5 shots, Phil McRae coming up 12 shots short of Matt Nicholls's 32, and Lloyd Goddard trailing Jono Grylls by 24 shots.

Donald Golf conceded one rink to Charlton, when Lynne Southwell accounted for Peter Hibberd by 3 shots, but when Geoff Rigby outscored Kevin Willey by 25 shots, and Shane O'Shea chipped in with a 3-shot win over Ken North, the margin in Golf's favour was 25 shots, and 10 points to 2.

Wedderburn suffered only one setback against the visiting Donald, when Laurie Witham lowered his colours to the cagey Beryl Milne. Alan Jackson scored a comfortable 15-shot win over Lindy Morgan, and Andrew Caserta finished 11 shots to the better of Hunter Wingfield, handing the host club a 25 shot win, and 10 points to 2.

Details:  
**Wedderburn 77-10 d. Donald 52-2.**

Helen Stephenson, Judy Matthews, Colin Mills, Alan Jackson (s) 31 d. Deborah Knight, Marg Kelly, Beth Hollis, Lindy Morgan (s) 16.

Robina Little, Ian Hall, Amy Roberts, Laurie Witham (s) 20 lost to Joan Wood, Marion McEwen, Brenda Brennan, Beryl Milne (s) 21.

Robert Ashley, Joan Murnane, Ruth Hall, Andrew

Caserta (s) 26 d. Margaret Quick, Alison McEwen, Ev Adams, Hunter Wingfield (s) 15.

**Boort 76-12 d. St. Arnaud Country Club 58-0.**

Yvonne Cashen, Tania Noles, Dorothy Gibson, John Gibson (s) 23 d. Yvonne Templar, Kevin Pole, Heather Esmore, Rhonda Pole (s) 21.

Gillian Tweddle, Phyl Baker, Craig Newsome, Laurie Maxted (s) 23 d. Steve Atkinson, Amanda Marland, Patricia Goode, Bill Rodger (s) 15.

Sarah Plack, Pam Gould, Ken Burt, Thelma Moresi (s) 30 d. Faye Rodger, Suzanne

Wright, Lyn Moulday, Des Moulday (s) 22.

**Donald Golf 82-10 d. Charlton 57-2.**

Corozon Stopps, Bill Livingston, Brenda Dixon, Shane O'Shea (s) 22 d. Jeff Cox, Bernard Laffin, Dale McCallum, Ken North (s) 19.

Sue Donnellon, Merilyn Frank, Joyce Hollis, Geoff Rigby (s) 38 d. Mark Hamley, Eily Rosewall, John Headon, Kevin Willey (s) 13.

George Wood, Beris Jones, Enid Brasier, Peter Hibberd (s) 22 lost to Gary Bateson, Richard Porter, Wayne Southwell, Lynne Southwell (s) 25.

**St. Arnaud 53-0 lost to Wycheproof 94-12.**

Anne McNally, Margaret McRae, Paul Micallef, Allan Welsh (s) 21 lost to Cheryl Rayes, Lynette Nicholls, Alan Jones, Aaron Mead (s) 26.

Andrea Tyler, Dianne Ostarcevic, Marie Hufer, Phil McRae (s) 20 lost to Andrea Coatsworth, Des Nicholls, Lorraine Milburn, Matt Nicholls (s) 32.

Heather Stevenson, Margaret McIntyre, Thomas Amos, Lloyd Goddard (s) 12 lost to Carol Jones, Vince Grant, Jeannie Grylls, Jono Grylls (s) 36.



### Keep Abreast with Local Happenings!

Don't forget Your Local Newspaper

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