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The Buloke Times

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

History Repeats as Young Wins Feeny

Thirty-nine years to the day from when Donald's Garry Young was celebrated as North-Central football's 1983 Feeny Medallist, his son, Ross, polled 25 votes to win the league's 2022 "best and fairest" award.

The Donald midfielder polled in 9 games, including 8 best on ground performances, to win from runner-up, and previous winner of local football's most prestigious individual award, Birchip-Watchem ruckman, Lochlan Sirett on 16.

Other leading vote scorers: Birchip-Watchem's Elliott Jaeschke 14, Wycheproof-Narraport's Gedd Hommelhoff 14, Sea Lake-Nandaly's Wade Donnan 14 (runner-up in the two previous seasons), Donald's Josh Potter 13, Sea Lake-Nandaly's Bryce Delmenico 12, and Wedderburn's Jordan Rosengren 13.

Wednesday evening's vote count, held for the first time at the magnificent new Charlton Park Community Complex, and attracted a strong representation from all eight league clubs, sponsors and invited guests.

MC for the evening, Noel Watson, compere of radio station 3SH's weekly Saturday morning North-Central segment, kept the evening flowing smoothly, as votes were counted and awards

presented in under-17, reserves and senior competitions.

Outstanding Career

Ross Young's win caps a brilliant career that began with Donald's junior teams and has taken him to the top level of Australian Rules football.

And his current coach, Rohan Brown, believes Donald is very fortunate to have a player of his calibre providing leadership on and off the field.

An outstanding junior, and after a season of senior football for the Royal Blues, Ross joined the Bendigo Pioneers in the Under-18 TAC Cup competition in 2001.

He then joined VAFA club Uni Blues for three seasons, 2002, '03 and '04, before being recruited by VFL team, Northern Bullants, where he played in 2005 and '06.

Prior to the 2007 season, Ross was rookie drafted by AFL club Carlton, where he made his senior debut in round 6 against St. Kilda, going on to play 6 games

with the Navy Blues in that season.

In 2008, Ross relocated to Perth, Western Australia, where he played for five seasons.

A highlight of his time in the West, playing with the Perth club, was winning the 2009 Sandover Medal for "best and fairest" in the WAFL, polling 46 votes. He was also runner-up in the award in 2008.

Ross captained Perth in 2012, and won the club's "best and fairest" awards in 2009, '11 and '12.

Returning to Victoria in 2013, Ross rejoined VAFA team Uni Blues, and was captain of a VAFA International Rules team that toured Ireland that year.

He won the Uni Blues' "best and fairest" in 2013, before joining Richmond's VFL team as captain in 2014, winning that club's "best and fairest" award.

The 2015 season saw Ross return to Uni Blues, where he won the club's

• Continued on page 8.



• North-Central's 2022 Feeny Medallist, Ross Young, of Donald, gets his kick away under pressure from Wycheproof-Narraport's Gedd Hommelhoff, winner of this season's Tooley-buc Sporting Club Presidents' Award.

Let's Celebrate National Meals on Wheels Day

For almost 70 years, the Meals on Wheels program has been supporting the health and wellbeing of older and vulnerable people within the Buloke Shire community, and on August 31, we celebrate as part of National Meals on Wheels Day.

Meals on Wheels is an essential and unique service, unlike any other food or consumer delivery organisation, and also provides valuable social connection opportunities.

This year our community will be recognising the dedication, commitment and resilience of the 184 Meals on Wheels volunteers across Buloke Shire Council, who travel around 7,000km annually to deliver meals supporting over 340 vulnerable members of the community.

Over the past two years, many Australians have experienced loneliness and isolation on an unprecedented level. The Meals on Wheels service enables vulnerable Australians and volunteers living in Buloke to remain

connected to their community, at a time where it is needed most.

"Buloke Shire Council is grateful to its volunteers and wishes to thank them for their dedication and support," said Buloke Shire Council's Deputy Mayor, Alan Getley.

"Without their help, we would not be able to support the health, independence and connection of the people within our community."

To reach out about becoming a Meals on Wheels volunteer with Buloke Shire Council visit <https://www.buloke.vic.gov.au/volunteer-with-us> or contact the Community Development Officer, Rebecca, by phoning: 1300 520 520.



• Cr. Carolyn Stewart and Cr. Graeme Milne completing a meals on wheels delivery.

New Agriculture Minister's First Speech

It could be useful to give a short reference to the speech by the new Minister for Agriculture to the National Rural Press Club this month.

The first thing to emphasise is that this would be the first major speech made by the Minister since the Prime Minister announced the appointment of Senator Murray Watt to the Cabinet and inner ministry in May 2022. As such, Senator Watt could not be expected to reveal much more than policies announced by the Labor Party before the election.

Mr Watt used the speech to say that he was a lawyer with personal family connections to agriculture, and to release the government's National Biosecurity Strategy. He regarded Australia's biosecurity strategy as a "wall of strength", which decisions of the previous government had weakened.

It would be fair to say he took credit for that Biosecurity Strategy – "all of our collective hard work" – although the hard work had been done by the previous government, with the closing date for submissions having been in March 2022, well before the election that brought the Albanese government to office.

The Buloke Times

FRIDAY, AUGUST 26, 2022

Those who were expecting detail of the government's promise to provide "sustainable funding for biotechnology as part of the budget" would be disappointed by his statement that he was "hopeful that we will have some good things to say in this year's budget, as we then work towards the next budget". At this stage, they will have to be satisfied with the government providing an additional \$10 million in biosecurity funding to Indonesia and establishing a new Exotic Animal Diseases Preparedness Taskforce.

The speech was principally an apology for the government's "climate change" policy, and the Minister's intention to do more for voices "at the table" for women, the young, and "First Nations".

There were shades of US President Obama's statement of concern that his grandchildren would never see the Great Barrier Reef intact (though he had not taken the opportunity to see it himself). This Minister wondered what his grandchildren would think of the agricultural show in 30 years' time – at least he had seen the Brisbane show himself.

In his comments about having spoken extensively to farmers around the country since his appointment, there was reference to other states, but no mention of Victoria.

One of the first questions from the floor was about water policy. The Minister avoided answering this question on the grounds that he couldn't discuss these matters, and he hadn't spoken in detail to Tanya Plibersek. As will be known from another editorial, access to water was the first priority in a recent survey of Australian farmers.

A journalist prefaced his remarks by pointing out that the Federal Court in 2011 had found that the previous Labor government's ban on live cattle export was "illegal". He asked when those people affected by the ban could expect to get compensation. Beyond speaking vaguely about insurers, and pointing out that he had been a class action lawyer, he did not know the answer to this question.

Mr Watt said that the new government saw no need for an agricultural visa for workers generally, opining that the scheme for the Pacific (PALM) was good enough. As to the question on when the Pacific workers would arrive in Australia, he answered that he did not know.

Sunraysia Highway Upgrades to Begin

The upgrades to the Sunraysia Highway are set to start this August for two intersections between Birchip and Woomelang.

Federal Member for Mallee and Shadow Assistant Minister for Regional Development, Anne Webster, said she was looking forward to seeing the works take place after securing the funding in the 2022-'23 budget.

"When we announced this funding in May earlier this year, the positive response from the community was immediate," Dr. Webster said.

"Safer and more efficient roads are top of mind for residents throughout Mallee. Here in the bush, everyone is a road user, so the safety and conditions of the Sunraysia Highway affects everyone.

"It also makes a big difference for industry, helping our producers get their freight to port or their domestic destination, quicker and safer.

"When I was in Woomelang last week, the need for these upgrades was starkly apparent. I'm glad to see the funding delivered by the Nationals, making a tangible impact in lives and livelihoods here in Mallee".

The investment through the 2022-'23 Budget, delivered by the Coalition, builds on the substantial investment by the former Government in Mallee, including upgrades



• Anne Webster.

on the Calder Highway with overtaking lanes, upgrades to the Sea Lake-Robinvale Road, the rebuilding of the Albacutya Bridge, and upgrades to many other roads in Mallee.

Safer and More Affordable Cars for Young Victorians

The State Government is giving more young people from across northern Victoria the chance to save money and ditch their older model cars for a safer, more modern vehicle.

The unsafe2safe trial is now being expanded right across regional Victoria, and Member for Northern Victoria, Mark Gepp, is encouraging eligible locals to register their interest.

Up to 150 drivers across Regional Victoria, aged 18-25

years, will take part in this phase of the program, which will provide a \$5,000 subsidy to replace their unsafe and older vehicle with a safer, newer vehicle.

To be eligible, applicants must reside in regional

Victoria, hold a Victorian driver's licence and be the registered owner of a vehicle that is more than 16 years old that has a low safety rating.

The trial aims to replace up to 1,000 unsafe vehicles that are more than 16 years old and have poor safety ratings, with more modern vehicles that include safety features to help prevent crashes entirely – such features include Lane Keep Assist and Autonomous Emergency Braking systems.

Young drivers are at the greatest risk of being involved in a crash in their first few years of solo driving, and young regional Victorians driving older cars are 15 times more likely to be killed in crashes compared with the state average.

With many young Victorians expressing cost as a key barrier in accessing safer vehicles, this program will help many get behind a safer wheel before hitting the road.

The first phase of the trial began last year in Ballarat and Bendigo, with young Victorians who participated now reaping the benefits of driving a safer vehicle.

The targeted program is part of Victoria's Road Safety Action Plan under the Victorian Road Safety Strategy 2021-2030, which focuses on groups that are over-represented in road trauma.

Sadly in 2022, 148 people have died on Victorian roads, compared to 130 this time last year.

For more information on eligibility and to apply for the Unsafe2Safe trial, visit: engage.vic.gov.au/unsafe2safe

Expressions of interest for phase 2 of the trial closes Sunday, 4 September 2022.

Letter to the Editor



Lest We Forget
(The Editor, "Buloke Times")
Dear Sir.— On Thursday last week, services were held across the State and the Nation to commemorate Vietnam Veterans Day.

The day is held on the anniversary of the battle of Long Tan, where Australian troops fought bravely against the odds, a long way from home, for a cause that bitterly divided their country.

All wars are brutal, but the Vietnam War had some distinguishing features that made it uniquely harrowing. The first was Government conscription. The second was national contempt.

Being made to go to war against your will, and/or being shunned by sections of your own community when you returned, must have compounded the trauma immeasurably. It was a shameful and inexcusable act by an Australian public that should have known better.

Because it was a Parliamentary sitting week, I was unable to attend our local commemorations, but I did have the opportunity to attend the Melbourne service at the Shrine of Remembrance.

It was very special to see a live performance of "I Was Only 19" by the song's writer,

John Schumann, of the Australian band, Redgum.

That song will be familiar to most of us. If you are too young to know the original version, you might be familiar with Triple J's "Like a Version" cover by "The Herd".

Apart from being an iconic Australian song, it also happens to have a special connection to the Mallee.

The song refers to a soldier named "Frankie" in the following lyrics:

"Then someone yelled out 'Contact'"

"And the bloke behind me swore"

"We hooked in there for hours, then a God-almighty roar"

"Frankie kicked a mine the day that mankind kicked the moon"

"God help me, he was going home in June."

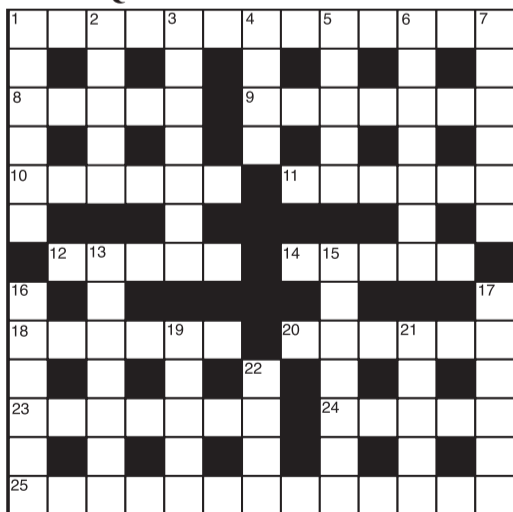
The "Frankie" character was indeed a real person, Private Francis Hunt, a Mallee boy from Birchip.

To Private Hunt and the many other Mallee boys and girls who served in the Vietnam conflict, thank you for your service and your sacrifice.

You are heroes.
Lest we forget.
Ali Cupper,
Member for Mildura.

"Times" Crossword

QUICK PUZZLE NO. 8038



ACROSS

1. Pensioner (6,7)
8. Game (5)
9. Try (7)
10. Speaker (6)
11. Tranquil (6)
12. Disturb (5)
14. Brilliant (5)
18. Fish (6)
20. Courage (6)
23. Hurricane (7)
24. Vacuous (5)
25. Smuggler (13)

DOWN

1. Security (6)
2. Fresh (5)
3. Ribald (7)
4. Stuff (4)
5. Appellation (5)
6. River (Africa) (7)
7. Spice (6)
13. Language (7)
15. Nationality (7)
16. Stationary (6)
17. Avid (6)
19. Exterior (5)
21. Animal (5)
22. Dull (4)

• Solution next issue.

Church Notices

UNITING CHURCH (North Central Living Waters Cluster)

Donald, 10 a.m.
Wycheproof, 10 a.m.
Birchip, 10 a.m., Rev. Bruce Gallacher - Communion.
Contact Number: 5497 1033

DISTRICT CATHOLIC CHURCHES "East Wimmera Parish"

Birchip 10.30 a.m. (Livestream in)
Boort 10.30 a.m. (Livestream in)
Banyena No Mass
Charlton 10.30 a.m. (Livestream out to churches without Mass)
Donald 10.30 a.m. (Livestream in)
St. Arnaud 8.30 a.m.
W'proof (Sat.) 7.00 p.m.

Fr. Gerry Prunty
0419 247 779

Parish Co-ordinator
- Noeline Hogan: 0476 617 976

Eyes to the Skies

“Perfect clear skies and a still night accompanied the Charlton Neighbourhood House’s National Science Week’s Stargazing Evening on Saturday, August 20.

Over 30 Charlton residents took advantage of a visit by three members of Bendigo’s Astronomical Society of Victoria, and their amazing telescopes.

With support from the Royal Society of Victoria, whose charter is to promote scientific knowledge for the benefit of Victorians, all those attending were amazed at what was able to be experienced.

First, it was wonderful to be able to see a large number of satellites passing across the Charlton sky with the naked eye.

People were then given a brief explanation about what could be seen and details on the Milky Way and some of the constellations.

The telescopes then homed in on a range of planets, such as Saturn, with its rings, and its moon Titan; Jupiter, and star clusters such as 47 Tucanare and Omega Centauri. The light from these stars will have been travelling through the universe for hundreds, thousands, and in some cases millions of years before reaching us.

Many people took advantage of downloading free APPS on to their mobile phones to identify what objects could be seen, and how many star signs such as Pisces and Sagittarius are formed; the Southern Cross also being clearly identified.

There were many requests for further similar events in the future, and the guest presenters were very impressed by the amount of interest shown by all those attending.



• Above: One of the telescopes brought along. Below: Karen and Tony de Groot view the horizon.



• Above: Clear skies at sunset. Below: Charlton residents line up to view the night sky.



Supporting COVID Recovery: Children’s Free Entry to Shows

Applications are now open for Victorian Agricultural and Pastoral Societies to access funding to support free entry for children to shows and field days and boost their COVID recovery.

The funding has been made available through the Victorian Government’s one-off investment in the Children Entry COVID Recovery Grants program.

Agriculture Victoria Executive Director, Policy and Programs, Sarah-Jane McCormack, said the program ensures regional and rural shows come back stronger than ever.

“For the past two years, most of the state’s agricultural shows have been significantly impacted by COVID-19 and these grants help organisers return to pre-pandemic attendance and revenue,” she said.

“Free entry for kids makes it easier for families to come along and see firsthand best

on-farm practices and to immerse themselves in learning experiences to better understand agriculture.”

The grants are open to all eligible Victorian Agricultural and Pastoral Societies that are hosting up and coming agriculture, horticultural or pastoral events including the Royal Geelong Show, the Whittlesea Show, the Mildura Show and many more.

Grant amounts will be capped and based on previous ticket revenue from recent shows, events or field days held by the Agricultural and Pastoral Society.

Regional and rural shows are a fixture of Victorian society, building community

spirit by celebrating agriculture in a fun, entertaining, educational and inclusive environment.

Executive Officer of Victorian Agriculture Shows, Rod Bowles said he is delighted to see the program open for applications. “The past two years have been challenging for the Societies and we’re looking forward to welcoming more families to the upcoming spring show season,” Mr Bowles said.

Applications now open until September 26, 2022.

For more information on the program and to apply, visit the Agriculture Victoria website.

Wet Start to Spring, but . . . Normal Fire Season Likely

Normal bushfire potential is expected in Victoria this spring, except for parts of central and eastern Victoria where the potential is below-normal, according to the Australian Seasonal Bushfire Outlook for Spring released this week.

The outlook suggests that parts of south-west Victoria have experienced below average rainfall over recent months, which may lead to some forests being drier than normal.

Parts of the Wimmera are experiencing drying conditions, however, average rainfall is expected until late in spring.

Forests in the Wimmera and the south-west may become drier with the forecast of higher than average day and night temperatures, potentially increasing the fire risk in those areas.

Above Average

Victoria’s eastern and north-east ranges experienced above average rainfall over the last 12 months, and coupled with above average rainfall outlook, below-average fire danger is expected in these areas. Rainfall in June has offset drier than average conditions in west Gippsland.

Although recent drying is evident across some parts of the eastern ranges, it is expected to be offset by the forecast of a wetter than average spring, with further rainfall expected.

The Bureau of Meteorology has also forecast above median rainfall through spring, with the period August to October likely to be above median for the northern part of Victoria.

Burnt areas from the 2018-19 and 2019-20 fire seasons will experience below normal fire risk in eastern Victoria.

Favourable Start

While it has been a favourable start to the 2022-23 winter cropping season, this may result in extra grass and crop growth, leading to increased fire potential later in spring, as these fuels dry out.

The quarterly national Seasonal Bushfire Outlook for Spring (September to November) is developed by Australasian Fire and Emergency Service Authorities Council (AFAC), the Bureau of Meteorology and state fire service agencies. AFAC is the national council for fire and emergency services.

“This spring outlook gives us an early indication of what Victoria could expect over the higher-risk weather season and will be updated later in the year as predictions firm up,” said Emergency Management Commissioner, Andrew Crisp.

“The emergency management sector undertakes significant planning and preparedness activities, informed by seasonal outlooks, to ensure that our emergency services are ready to respond to bushfires, floods, storms and other emergencies.

“Emergency management is a shared responsibility with our communities, and it’s important that Victorians do their part too –think about what you will do to prepare for and respond to a potential fire, flood or storm.”

Never Be Complacent

“With a wetter than average spring predicted for most Victorians this year, now is the time to prepare, Victorians should never be complacent when planning and preparing for the risk of fire and severe weather,” said State Emergency Service Chief Officer, Tim Wiebusch.

“As VICSES continues to review its township-based local flood guides. There are now over 140 local guides available for at risk flood townships. We strongly encourage members of the community to go the VICSES interactive maps to look up their Local Flood Guides.

“If you ever come across floodwater, it’s vital you never enter it. It can take just 15cm of water for a small car to float or lose traction, it may be the last decision you ever make.

“VICSES will continue to work closely with the emergency services sector to ensure the safety of Victorian communities, beyond the upcoming spring season.”

"Times" Classifieds

Phone Donald 5497 1222, Birchip 5492 2735

Deadlines:—

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

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

21ST BIRTHDAY



Wishing you a wonderful 21st birthday Koby.

We are so proud of you and may the future bring many more adventures and milestones.

—With lots of love,
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Everly, Max, Tarli, Ty,
Arlo, Banjo & Hannah.

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DEATH RYAN.— Ian James "Rattles"

Passed away 24/8/2022.

Loving and respected brother of Joan, loved brother-in-law of Leo (Keane).

Adored uncle of Natalie, Jackie, Anthony, Zara and Scarlett, Tony, Penn and Patrick.

Going to miss you
Rattles, R.I.P.

IN MEMORIAM CONNELLY.— Leonie Monica 26/8/1980

Remembered, missed and loved every day.

—Fiona and family

An advert. in
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90TH BIRTHDAY THANK YOU

I would like to sincerely thank all who sent me cards for my 90th birthday. Your wishes made my day very special. May the Lord bless you richly in the coming days with good health and happiness.

—Margaret Naughton

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—Geoff Berry (Secretary)

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Jaya Stirling Yr 8
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Keith Haring

Learning Intention:
Using artist Keith Haring as inspiration, students will learn how to create a pop art inspired artwork.

Success Criteria:

- Students have learned about the American Artist Keith Haring
- Produce an artwork containing art elements and primary colour.
- Learned art vocabulary
- Compare and contrast different Pop Art artworks and styles

About the Artist:

- Keith Haring was born on the 4th of May 1958
- He was a popular artist and activist.
- His work responded to contemporary social and political issues.
- Inspired by graffiti artists, he began his drawings in his social circle included musicians, performers and dancers.
- His work was colourful, animated and often contained simple shapes.
- Keith Haring was community minded and liked to work with children.
- He liked to listen to Hip Hop music as inspiration for his work.



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Peaco Foods, Pty Ltd
PO Box 74
Donald, VIC 3480
melissa@peaco.com.au shane@peaco.com.au

Initial queries may be directed through
Melissa Sellick 5497 1766 or Shane Wall 0418 507 178.

Closing date Friday, September 2, 2022.

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1282 ACRES / 518.80 HA

Lot 1: "McNicol's", 640 Acres / 258.95 Ha (approx.)

- Situated 4km west Calder Highway at Dumosa
- Comprising 2 paddocks with excellent Mallee loams.
- Currently sown to 1/2 barley, 1/2 peas

Lot 2: "Murray's", 642 Acres / 259.80 Ha (approx.)

- Well situated 8km SW of Nullawil township
- Productive Mallee soils with rising red loams
- 1 paddock currently all sown to lentils.

The above lots present with proven high production soil types having been subject to well managed farming practices, Wimmera Mallee pipeline connected both lots, ideal access to Nullawil grain receival site. Full cropping & chemical history available, all-weather access to both properties.

Excellent opportunity to add to existing property holdings or secure quality Mallee farmland in the well held district of Nullawil / Dumosa.

EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST CLOSE:
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Deputy Director of Clinical Services
Enrolled Nurse
Food & Domestic Service Assistant
Registered Nurse Grade 2

Wycheproof
Associate Nurse Unit Manager
Food & Domestic Service Assistant

Further information available at
ewhs.org.au/employment.html



• Trevor Emonson and Ari Milne.



• Hamish Noonan and Trevor Emonson planting.



• Aki Norton in action for the environment.

Tree Time for Prep One Class

On Monday, August 8, during our Science lesson, the prep one class planted trees near the Trade Training facility under the guidance of Trevor Emonson.

Birchip Landcare donated the trees to the school for National Tree Day in July, and it was decided to beautify a region of the school with them.

Trevor prepared the area for the planting to occur, and supervised the students as they removed the plant from the pot, emptied the hole of dirt, planted the tree and then watered to encourage the tree to grow.

The School looks forward to the plants flourishing as prep and grade one students progress through their education.



Farmers' Riverfront Rights are a Nationals Priority

The Nationals in government will give power back to landholders to decide who can camp on their river frontages, while increasing penalties for people who flout the rules.

The Nationals have announced plans to address the Andrews Labor Government's ill-conceived changes to the Land Act 1958 last year, which the government pursued despite

concerns from farmers about the risks to biosecurity and personal safety, and the potential threat of litigation.

Concern

Member for Lowan, and Deputy Leader of The Nationals,

Emma Kealy, was contacted by a large number of concerned farmers who lease river frontages on the Wimmera and Glenelg Rivers when the changes were first proposed.

Ms Kealy and the Nationals and Liberals stood with farmers in vigorously opposing the legislation, which came into effect in September.

She said under a Nationals Government, The Act and its associated regulations would be more balanced, with landholder permission a pre-requisite to camping, and licensees

authorised to remove consent upon a reasonable belief there has been a breach of the regulations.

"Recreational users will continue to be able to access these frontages and have reasonable access for camping, however changes would be made to include preventative measures against biosecurity



• Emma Kealy

threats and potential environmental damage," Ms Kealy said.

Penalties

"Penalties applied to those who breach the rules could also increase and include the potential for seizure of fishing and camping equipment, vehicles and vessels."

Ms Kealy said the suitability of sites that had already been identified for riverfront camping would be re-assessed, with existing leases reviewed to enhance the experience for the fishers, campers and adjacent leaseholders.

"We know from discussions with affected farmers that we need to strike a balance between access to public space and the potential threat to our livestock industry," she said.

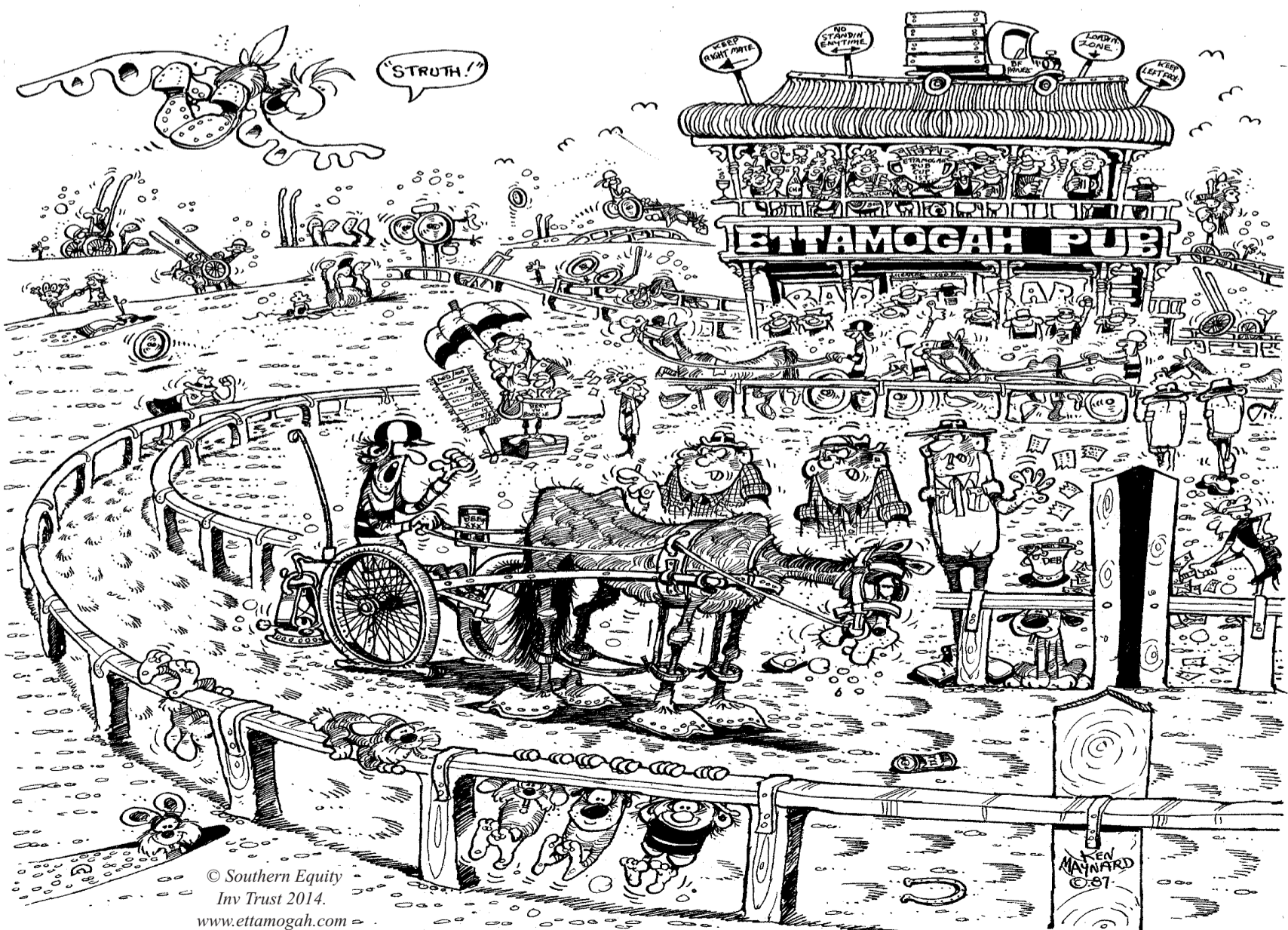
"This policy provides better protection of waterways and land as well as protections for licence holders, their stock and property.

"Landholders are understandably worried and remain uneasy about the threat of being sued.

"For decades an informal system has operated with farmers allowing campers when asked – they don't have a problem with that, but the current rules are a free-for-all.

"The failings of the current laws are real, and need to be fixed, and The Nationals in government will fix them."

The Ettamogah Pub Mob



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

"Talk about unfair tactics boss ... while i wuz out of th' gig spreadin' tacks on th' track some flamin' cheat let my tyres down!"

Youth Group Plans Ahead

The Birchip Youth Group, led by president Ella Walsh, has been busy organising and hosting activities for local young people, and has several more events planned for September and October including “Rampage” and a “24 hour relay for a cause”.

Throughout the winter sports season the Birchip Youth Group has organised and cooked two Thursday night meals for the players and supporters of the three sporting codes, to raise funds for its planned activities.

In July the Group used a pupil free day to cook butter chicken, sweet and sour chicken and fried rice, served to over one hundred adults and children, and before the last home and away game of the season another delicious meal of sweet chili chicken wraps, lamb souvlakis and pasta carbonara was served up.

Youth Group has used the money it raised from these two dinners to upgrade the facilities at the youth room, which now includes a 65cm smart television with members’ own Netflix account that the young people can utilise to

live stream movies, watch sport, listen to music and play interactive games.

Workshops

They are currently finalising workshops they will be hosting during Youth Fest in September, which they received State Government funding for. Youth Fest is a month-long celebration in Victoria to highlight and celebrate the contributions and achievements of young people.

The Birchip Youth Group, together with the Birchip Neighbourhood House has already organised two painting workshops, “painting and pizzas”, to be held on Thursday, 28th for secondary students and “painting and popcorn” to be held on September 29, and now they are trying to secure additional tutors to host more workshops during the September school holidays.

On October 8, they are staging their FReeZA event “Rampage” which is their marquee event of the year. This year they have chosen to host the event at the Birchip Trotting Track, which will add a new set of challenges as they



• Vice-president Maggie Wilson, youth group member Hannah Wilson, and president Ella Walsh in the re-vamped youth room.

negotiate the logistics of hosting an outdoor event.

24-Hour Relay

An additional event Birchip Youth Group has added to its calendar of events in 2022 is a 24-hour relay for a cause. This event will be similar to a “relay for life” or “unite for a fight” event, where teams of people camp out and take turns walking or running around the George Cartwright Oval. Each team has to have a representative (or several) on the track at all times during the twenty four hours.

Youth group is urging families and local businesses to enter a team and nominate their own cause, one that is

close to their heart or has impacted on them first hand. Teams are encouraged to theme their walkers and camp sites to reflect the cause they are walking for, and to add to some brightness and fun to the event.

For example, a team supporting breast cancer could wear pink merchandise, a suicide awareness or R U OK? team might wear yellow, a team supporting 16 days of activism might wear orange, a team supporting Alzheimer’s might wear purple, or a “Move for Movember” team could wear moustaches and complete their whole 60 kilometers by November 1.

“We are hoping to see a rainbow of colours on the track with teams donating and fundraising for lots of different causes,” said President Ella Walsh.

Entertainment

There will be lots of entertainment, music, food and Halloween-themed activities happening throughout the twenty-four hours commencing on Monday October 31, at 2 p. m., and concluding just prior to the running of the Melbourne Cup on Tuesday, November 1, which will be able to be viewed on the big screens in the Birchip Community Leisure Centre.

The relay will conclude a very busy Cup Day weekend in Buloke with the Birchip Art Show, Charlton Art Show and Mt. Wycheproof Racing Club Cup all being hosted over the five-day long weekend.

It will be a great opportunity for Buloke to showcase all it has to offer to locals and visitors, and a good chance for community members to invite their friends and family to Birchip to enjoy a fun weekend full of family friendly activities.

It is great for the young people of Buloke to be organising and supporting activities that are arranged by young people for young people.



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History Repeats as Young Wins Feeny

• Continued from page 1. Donald Football Club, won the 1983 Feeny Medal, vote counting taking place on August 24, co-incidentally the same date as the 2022 vote count.

He played with Uni Blues until returning to Donald in 2019. He won the club's "best and fairest" award in 2021.

As previously mentioned, Ross's father, also an outstanding midfielder with the

Donald Football Club, won the 1983 Feeny Medal, vote counting taking place on August 24, co-incidentally the same date as the 2022 vote count.

And Ross's mother, Carmel, gave birth to him on September 9, 1983, 16 days later.

The longevity of Ross Young's football career is simply amazing. And the quality of his football and con-

tribution to the Donald team today remains at the highest level

Two in a Row to Bull Jack Ryan

Birchip-Watchem's Jack Ryan won his second consecutive North-Central reserves' "best and fairest" award, the James and Jenny Goldsmith Trophy, polling 22 votes, ahead of runner-up, Josh Talty (Donald) 20.

Other leading vote getters were Connor Michael (Sea Lake-Nandaly) 16, Joel Clohesy (Sea Lake-Nandaly) 16, Mitch Buchanan (Boort) 13, Cooper Anderson (Donald) 11, Robert Whyman (Wedderburn) 11, Zac Wemyss (Sea Lake-Nandaly) 1.

Nick is Under-17s' Best

In the under-17 competition, Charlton's Nick Thompson polled 29 votes, to be a clear winner of the Jeff "Woofa" Guild Memorial Trophy for "best and fairest", ahead of runner-up, Birchip-Watchem's Ty Colbert 22 (Andy Kennedy Award).

Others to poll well were Jed Daniels (Sea Lake-Nandaly), Thomas Cox (Sea Lake-Nandaly) and Tom Potter (Boort) all on 17, Alex Cockerell (Boort) 14, Logan Geddes (Donald) 11, Will Marks (Birchip-Watchem) 11, Isaac Durie (Sea Lake-Nandaly) 9 and Sam Male (St. Arnaud) 9.

Ty a Clear Winner

Birchip-Watchem's Ty Colbert was a clear winner of the Community Bank Charlton and District Team Player of the Year award, polling 26 votes, ahead of runner-up, St. Arnaud's Sam Male 20.

Others to poll well were Bailey Dixon (Charlton) 18, Nick Thompson (Charlton)



• North-Central's 2022 "Rookie of the Year", Will Burke (Donald), after receiving the Maurie Morgan Memorial Medal.



• Runner-up in the 2022 Feeny Medal, and recipient of the Keith Chalmers Memorial Trophy, Lochlan Sirett (Birchip-Watchem), is congratulated by North-Central chairman, Tim Lockhart.

16, Riley Hogan (Birchip-Watchem) 16, Xavier McKersie (Wyche.-Narraport) 16, Max Beattie (Boort) 15, Jed Daniel (Sea Lake-Nandaly) 14, Thomas Cox (Sea Lake-Nandaly) 14, Max Cahoon (Sea Lake-Nandaly) 14, Harry Cook (Birchip-Watchem) 14, Cooper Boyle (Charlton) 13.

Gedd polled 37 votes, to win from Donald's Brody Haddow 25, Boort's Nathan Twigg 22 and Matt Chisari 21, Birchip-Watchem's Lochlan Sirett 21.

Sea Lake-Nandaly's Trent Donnan was next on 20, with Boort's Keiren Wilson and Wedderburn's Jordan Rosengren each polling 18 votes

"Rookie of the Year"

Donald's Will Burke was adjudged to be North-Central football's 2022 "Rookie of the Year", receiving the Maurie Morgan Memorial Medal.

Other nominations for the prestigious best first year player in North-Central senior football included:

Boort's Tom Potter, Frasier Holland and Alex Cockerall.

Birchip-Watchem's Sam O'Donnell and Jack Bradford. Charlton's Nick Thompson and Patrick Sait.

Sea Lake-Nandaly's Flynn McGarry.

• Continued on page 9.

Tooleybuc Sport Club Presidents' Award

Wycheproof-Narraport's Geddo Hommelhoff was a runaway winner in the Tooleybuc Sporting Club's presidents' award, judged on votes cast by opposition club presidents.

Club Championship

Winner of the CHS Broadbent Club Championship was Donald Football Club, with 278 points, one ahead of runner-up, Sea Lake-Nandaly, 277, with Birchip-Watchem third, 270.



• Under-17 "best and fairest", Nick Thompson (left, Charlton) and runner-up, Ty Colbert (Birchip-Watchem), also the recipient of the Community Bank Charlton best team player.



• CHS Broadbent representative, Sam Toll (centre), with Champion Club Donald's president, James Burke (left) and runner-up, Sea Lake-Nandaly's Jarrod McKenzie.

BCG researchers eager to connect at BCG's Main Field Day

BIRCHIP CROPPING GROUP

BCG researchers are prominent in this year's line-up of speakers at BCG's Main Field Day on Wednesday, September 14, at Nullawil (on the corner of the Calder Highway and Burgins Road). After two years without the not-for profit agricultural research company's main event, Australia's biggest farming systems group's researchers are more eager than ever to speak with farmers.

BCG RESEARCH AND Extension Officer, Brooke Bennett, said: "We are so passionate about the work we do and while webinars and videos are useful, there is nothing like being in the paddock, discussing and answering farmers and advisers' questions in person.

"It is why we come to work each day, to see our research have a positive impact on farmers, our communities and more broadly, agriculture on a national and international level."

"At our field day on Wednesday, September 14, I'll be discussing the latest barley agronomy research and

new barley and wheat varieties available to growers.

"A number of new cereal varieties have been released over the past few years with characteristics such as improved disease packages, longer coleoptile length, awnless varieties and differing maturity.

"The GRDC NVTs offer the opportunity to see how the yield of new lines and commercially available lines stack up against each other in varying environments. Growers can then take this research and combine it with their own knowledge of management requirements to select the best variety for their farming system."

Pulse agronomy, Septoria management in the low rainfall zone, silicon trials, soil carbon work, BCG's herbicide matrix and year-round fodder trials are also on the program, and will provide an opportunity for farmers to connect with researchers and their work occurring in the region, for the region.

Gates open at 8 a.m., with onsite catering available from breakfast through to drinks at the conclusion of the day.

This event is free for BCG members, and \$50 for non-members. To become a member, visit bcg.org.au For more information on becoming a member, or regarding the field day, call (03) 5492 2787.



Photo by Jo-Anne McArthur on Unsplash.

Biosecurity boost helps Victorian farmers

VICTORIAN FARMERS FEDERATION

The Victorian Farmers Federation (VFF) has welcomed additional support and resources to help prepare Victoria against the threat of Foot and Mouth and Lumpy Skin diseases.

VFF PRESIDENT Emma Germano said the commitment was important to protect farms in the event of a biosecurity incursion.

"The Victorian Government's announcement of \$10 million to accelerate biosecurity preparedness is very much welcomed by farmers and the agriculture industry" she said.

"Thankfully, Australia remains free from Foot and Mouth and Lumpy Skin disease. But if these diseases were to penetrate our borders, we would need to get on top of them as quickly as possible.

"The VFF is pleased to see the Government will be undertaking practical measures to help boost our ability to test for disease and provide a rapid response."

Ms Germano said in addition to the immediate support

announced by the Government, she hoped to see all sides of politics commit to boosting Victoria's biosecurity capabilities at the forthcoming State election.

"Although the threat of Foot and Mouth and Lumpy Skin has brought biosecurity into the public spotlight at this moment in time, farmers know we must be vigilant all the time."

"Action must be taken to provide certainty to Victoria's biosecurity system through long-term sustainable funding arrangements.

"We expect that in the context of State election being held in November, combined with the overwhelming threats facing our industry right now, we will see some solid commitments put on the table to help boost Victoria's biosecurity system."

Ms Germano reminded farmers that they also need to take responsibility for protecting their farm's biosecurity and encouraged them to take immediate action.

"Preparing against biosecurity risks is a shared responsibility. Whilst we are putting pressure on all levels of government to step up their response, that doesn't absolve farmers of our duty to be prepared," she said.

"Every farm must have a biosecurity plan. If farmers don't have one, they need to get one now. If they do have one, now's the time to dust it off and make sure it's activated."

"The VFF is working closely with Agriculture Victoria to ensure farmers have the information they need to prepare, and these resources can be accessed through our website."



Farmers at BCG's Main Field Day.



Podcast

AGRICULTURE VIC.

You may have seen the Bureau of Meteorology recently announced that a Negative Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) event is underway.

TO FIND OUT more about what a negative IOD means for Victoria, check out our podcast episode 6 with Dale Grey on My Rain Gauge is Busted.

Find it at <https://agriculture.vic.gov.au/support-and-resources/podcasts/>



Speed Lions Club nominated for Achievement Award

VICTORIAN COMMUNITY ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

The Speed Lions Club has been nominated in the Awards Australia Community Group Award category of the Victorian Community Achievement Awards for its major event, the Mallee Machinery Field Days.

THE SPEED LIONS CLUB consists of a small, but dedicated group of volunteers (24 members) who are committed to raising much-needed funds for their community.

The club's signature fundraising event, The Mallee Machinery Field Days, is the Mallee's largest agricultural and agribusiness trade show and has provided numerous fundraising opportunities for the local community which extends across three local government areas (Yarriambiack, Buloke and Mildura).

Hosted by the Speed Lions Club, the event was the first of its kind to be held within the Mallee and continues to evolve each year.

Dating back to 1979, the Speed Lions Club played host to their inaugural field day event. It featured 38 exhibitors and raised \$2,800. Today, the Mallee Machinery Field Days attract more than 350 exhibitors from across Aus-

tralia and features a range of farming equipment and machinery worth more than one hundred million dollars. From the latest agricultural machinery to finance and brokering, clothing and safety gear, the exhibits cover all facets of farming.

Organisers of the Mallee Machinery Field Days believe the longevity of the event can be attributed to the fact the club has never steered away from its main agricultural focus – it's an event run by farmers for farmers.

Exhibitors travel far and wide to be a part of the Mallee Machinery Field Days with businesses travelling from all over Australia to be part of the two-day event, which is traditionally held on the first Wednesday and Thursday of August each year. The event attracts more than 8,000 patrons across the two-day event.

Beneficiaries of the field



Original MMFD committee members Kevin Emonson and Les Down. Photo by Tracey Lawson.

days include local health facilities, sporting clubs, schools and kindergartens. Not only does the field days provide economic support to the local community, but it

also delivers a number of social benefits. In many ways the field days is the lifeblood of the region's farming community. It provides an opportunity for the agricultural

community to come together and socialise while also making a significant contribution to the local economy, attracting exhibitors from across Australia.

The Speed Lions Club is committed to delivering social and economic benefits to the local region.

Humble Beginnings

From humble beginnings, the annual field days have evolved and have stood the test of time which has been no mean feat for the small but dedicated group of volunteers who work year-round to bring the event to fruition.

The first Mallee Machinery Field Days dates back to 1979. Speed Lions Club member Kevin Emonson is a founding member of the club. He's one of two original members still actively involved with the club and field days.

Mr Emonson said the concept of the field days was the brainchild of Mallee farmer

Bob Roberts.

"He had attended a machinery demonstration in Sea Lake," Mr Emonson said, noting he had the foresight to see how such an event could raise money for the club in its early days.

"We approached a few dealers who jumped on board and it all started from there," Mr Emonson said, adding the event was held in his Dad's paddock. "There was nothing else like it in the Mallee."

Mr Emonson said one of the main turning points for the club was when they secured a permanent site for the event.

"We are forever grateful to the Torpey family for allowing us a permanent site," he said.

"Prior to this we used to rotate farms. It meant we had to mark out the site every year and transfer amenities."

Mr Emonson said he hoped the local community, exhibitors and those attending would continue to support the event well into the future.

"It makes me feel old but it's pretty amazing really. We are very fortunate the Mallee has got behind us and enabled it to keep going," he said.

Having attended every Mallee Machinery Field Days event since its inception, Mr Emonson said he was proud to be a part of the field days and the fundraising efforts which have enabled the Lions Club to make significant financial contributions over the years.

"This is one of the things I get a real kick out of," Mr Emonson said, noting they had helped numerous families during times of hardship, various causes and likeminded organisations and community groups.

Benefits Flow on

However, the benefits of the Mallee Machinery Field Days extend well beyond the farm gate. The event provides



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Mallee Machinery Field Days a worthy nomination

VICTORIAN COMMUNITY ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS



Aerial view of the 2022 field days site. Photo by Phil Down.

a helping hand to many community groups, not-for-profit organisations, local schools and sporting clubs, who all play a major role in bringing the event to life.

The two-day event would not be possible if it wasn't for the 22 community groups that work alongside the club each year. While the Speed Lions Club has 24 members, the field days rely on an extra 500 pair of hands during the annual event.

These groups take on a variety of roles throughout the two-day event, including catering and manning the gates. For many groups, it's the only fundraising they partake in for the year.

The field days provide a fantastic opportunity for community groups to raise much-needed funds at a time when it's difficult to fundraise within small communities, where groups are all vying for the same fundraising dollar.

In addition, the Speed

Lions Club is a not-for-profit organisation, so each site which is booked at the Mallee Machinery Field Days, goes towards making a worthwhile contribution.

Proceeds from past events have been donated to the Royal Children's Hospital, The Royal Flying Doctor Service and local hospitals and charities.

Club Commitment

The Mallee Machinery Field Days is organised by the 24 members of the Speed Lions Club. Each member plays an important role in ensuring the success of the event.

Transforming a bare paddock into a major agricultural event within the Mallee requires much preparation and volunteer hours and involves all aspects of planning and executing a major two-day agricultural event which includes securing and booking sites, sourcing guest speakers, marketing and promotional op-

portunities, while ensuring all aspects of OH&S are adhered to.

While Speed may be one of Victoria's smallest towns, with a population of only 45 people, it has a huge heart and each year raises much needed funds by transforming an empty paddock into a show-stopping agricultural event which attracts more than 8,000 people to the town.

Challenges Met

The biggest challenge the Mallee Machinery Field Days has had to endure was the cancellation of the event in 2020 and 2021 due to the worldwide COVID-19 pandemic and statewide lockdowns. It was the first time in the event's 42 year history that the event was cancelled. Prior to this it had taken place rain, hail or shine.

Determined to overcome these barriers, the Speed Lions Club continued to work tirelessly behind the scenes to ensure its comeback this year.

Having celebrated the event on August 4 and 5, the event was huge with increased crowds and exhibitor sites at full capacity. With a new secretary at the helm of the event, the Speed Lions Club is set to welcome a number of new

younger members in the coming weeks who will ensure the longevity of the event.

For many of these members, they are following in the footsteps of their fathers and grandfathers who helped establish the event. It's hoped

they will provide a fresh outlook, while instilling the values of the original members to ensure continued success.

• Thanks to Michelle Brady who submitted the nomination and supplied the accompanying information.



Bellevue Machinery, winner of the NAB best large site award at the 2022 event.

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The first group of startups to take part in AgTech Seeds.

Next crop of agtech founders plant their seeds

ROCKET SEEDER LTD

A group of fledgling Victorian technology entrepreneurs have taken a step closer to delivering critical technology for the agriculture sector, with the launch of Rocket Seeder's AgTech Seeds program.

ELEVEN TEAMS OF aspiring agtech founders have joined AgTech Seeds, a three-month program that brings together teams of budding entrepreneurs and researchers to solve some of global agriculture's biggest challenges.

Rocket Seeder Managing Director, Emma Coath, said it was extremely exciting to see the first cohort begin their AgTech Seeds journey.

"These teams will develop agtech solutions that respond to the needs of Victorian farmers to boost their sustainability, productivity and profitability," Ms Coath said.

"These are individuals and teams that are at the early stages of development. Some have ideas they want to test and refine, while others are more advanced.

"We are really looking forward to seeing their growth over the next few months."

The AgTech Seeds pre-accelerator program is supported by LaunchVic and Agriculture Victoria and is

being delivered in partnership with Cruxes Innovation, which works with Australian researchers to help them develop skills to build deep, sustained partnerships with industry and government to solve real-world problems.

Teams taking part in the inaugural AgTech Seeds program are developing digital farm management platforms, urban cropping systems, smart gardens and passive solar protective cropping houses.

One team is investigating niche field pea and lentil varieties to meet the demand for alternative proteins. One team is converting waste products into fertiliser, while another is employing drones to manage weed and pest infestations.

The teams are using intelligent growth algorithms, IoT sensors and AI mapping, connecting growers directly to customers and consumers across the value chain.

Ms Coath said the teams will spend the next few

months fast-tracking their ideas, working with researchers from universities across the state and Agriculture Victoria. They will gain critical skills in business planning and development, finance, marketing and communications.

Mentors

The group will have access to Rocket Seeder's experienced network of mentors, advisors and alumni who will present to the group over the next few months.

"At the end of the program these teams will also have the opportunity to apply for a grant that will assist them to take their business a step further," Ms Coath said.

The program was launched recently by Victoria's Lead Scientist Amanda Caples, who has a wealth of experience in technology commercialisation, and has led the development of industry, science and innovation policy in Victoria since joining the Victorian Public Service in 2002.

"I can't think of anything much more important to do than to enable a group of entrepreneurs to set out on their journey for success," Dr Caples said at the AgTech Seeds Launch at Rocket Seeder's new home at Melbourne Connect.

Four Ps

Dr. Caples said the key to success when it comes to innovation is the four Ps.

"Innovation is all about purpose, passion, plan and persistence," she said. "Constantly test yourself – Am I still enjoying this? What is it that I really want to achieve? Do I have a plan in place? Plans change and that's fine. It's about persisting for long enough and being prepared to adjust, which is what innovation is about."

The other key message to the cohort was to invest in their network.

"You don't know everything about everything you need to know," Dr. Caples said. "Recognise this, and then build a network of friends that can help deliver, either by supporting your

skills or complementing your skills and experience."

Digital Platform

Among the first AgTech Seeds cohort are brothers James and Paul Diamond. These third-generation cattle and sheep producers from Mansfield have spent two years developing a digital platform to help farmers access technology to improve both workplace safety and livestock management.

"We joined the program to help us hone our vision, our mission and purpose, and to minimise the distraction and crystallise what we are doing," James said.

"We really want to accelerate the progress we have made over the past two years. AgTech Seeds will help us establish a stable pathway into the industry and connect with a broader network that we just don't have."

Applications are now open for AgTech Seeds Round Two which starts in February 2023. There are 12 positions available for the program which is free to successful applicants. Applications close on 28 November 2022.

For more information or to apply visit www.rocketseeder.com/agtechseeds

FARM FACTS

There are approximately 85,483 agricultural businesses in Australia that have an Estimated Value of Agricultural Operations (EVAO) of \$40,000 or greater (as of June 2018). More than 99% of Australian agricultural businesses are wholly Australian owned, with Australians owning 88% of Australia's agricultural land. Wholly Australian owned businesses also control 87% of Australia's agricultural water entitlements.

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• The crowd in attendance at the Charlton Complex on Wednesday evening.

• Continued from page 8.
Leading Goalkickers

Winner of the Richmond family senior goal kicking award is Billy McInnes (Sea Lake-Nandaly), with 58 goals.

In the reserves, Bryan Beckham (Donald) took out the Ivan Leeder Memorial Trophy goal kicking award with 45 during the home-and-away season.

North-Central chairman, Tim Lockhart, thanked the many people who had contributed towards ensuring the league's successful return after a cancelled 2020 season and 2021 cut short due to Covid restrictions.

High on his list were the generous sponsors, his fellow league administrators, club officials, players and supporters.

Tim also congratulated the Charlton Football Club, under the leadership of Shane and Kim Fitzpatrick, on the presentation of the Feeny Medal presentation evening.



• Senior leading goal kicker, Billy McInnes (Sea Lake-Nandaly).



• Reserves' "best and fairest", Jack Ryan (right, Birchip-Watchem), with runner-up, Josh Talty (Donald).

Underwater Wonderland

It was a warm and sunny day on the Great Barrier Reef. We put our wet suits on followed by flippers on the feet, a mask on our face and a snorkel into our mouths.

It was then time to dip into the clear waters of Hastings Reef and see the magnificent underwater wonderland containing so much life and colour. Coral reefs are one of the most stunningly beautiful places on earth, and are often described as the "gardens of the sea".

There are more than 1500 species of fish in the Great Barrier Reef and a vast array of incredibly coloured coral. Hastings Reef is over 40 kilometres from the coast and right on the edge of the Pacific Ocean and it is where marine life thrives.

One can snorkel in the shallows and admire the coral gardens or swim away with colourful schools of fish and watch the sunlight ripple beneath the shimmering surface.

The number of fish and the kaleidoscope of colours is breathtaking and near impossible to describe. There are large schools of tiny fish, giant clams and graceful sea turtles.

Most Common

Some of the most common fish species found are the inquisitive Angel fish, Butterfly fish, inconspicuous Cardinal fish, stunning Clown fish popularised by the "Finding Nemo" movie, Damsel fish, the tiny Gobie fish and large Groupers and Cods, the Parrot fish, Trigger fish and Coral Trout which can instantly change their colours during courtship displays.

I had hired an underwater camera, and such was the movement of hundreds of fish of all sorts of colours, shapes and sizes interspersed amongst the coral that I just kept pushing the camera button without ceasing.

At one stage I observed a large turtle effortlessly moving through the water and I took off in pursuit to gain a photo but had to be satisfied with a distant shot.

Striking Species

Surgeon fish are some of the most visually striking species in the entire Great



• Bruce Stewart

Barrier Reef, with vivid colours combined with amazing patterns and stripes.

Someone said, "A school of surgeon fish swimming in unison is the equivalent of an ocean-dwelling, moving rainbow!"

Dr Stuart Burgess, of Bristol University, writes, "Coral fish exhibit a dazzling array of colours and patterns. They have special cells called chromatophores that can produce bright colouring; they also



• Another underwater panorama my camera captured at Hastings Reef, 45 km north east of Cairns. The number and colour of the fish is amazing.

can switch colours off and on and even produce bioluminescence (producing their own light by chemical reaction)".

Stuart goes on to say, "(Much of)...the colouring of coral reef fish is another example of beauty for the sake of beauty which can only be explained in terms of intelligent design".

The Bible tells us that our Creator is that "Intelligent Designer. "How many are Your works, O Lord! In wisdom You made them all; the earth

is full of Your creatures. There is the sea, vast and spacious, teeming with creatures beyond number – living things both large and small." Psalm 104: 24-25.

What an incredible day a whole bunch of us had on the reef as we saw the water "teeming with creatures" amidst gardens of colour.

It was a bit sad that this incredible day on the Great Barrier Reef came to an end when the diesel motors of the catamaran named "Seaspray"

burst into life and carried us away from this place of wonder and beauty, back to the mainland.

At journey's end all of us thanked the captain and crew of our boat, and some of us also thanked and praised our Creator for the wonder and beauty of His creation which we can experience so readily on the Great Barrier Reef, and others parts of this amazing world which we call home.

Bruce Stewart.

BCG Researchers Eager to Connect at Main Field Day

BCG researchers are prominent in this year's line-up of speakers at BCG's Main Field Day on Wednesday, September 14, at Nullawil (on the corner of the Calder Highway and Burgins Road).

After two years without the not-for-profit agricultural research company's main event, Australia's biggest farming systems group's researchers are more eager than ever to speak with farmers.

"We are so passionate about the work we do and while webinars and videos are useful, there is nothing like being in the paddock, discussing and answering farmers and advisers' questions in

person," said BCG Research and Extension Officer, Brooke Bennett.

"It is why we come to work each day, to see our research have a positive impact on farmers, our communities and more broadly, agriculture on a national and international level."

"At our field day on Wednesday, September 14, I'll be discussing the latest barley agronomy research and new barley and wheat varieties available to growers.

"A number of new cereal varieties have been released over the past few years, with characteristics such as improved disease packages, longer coleoptile length, awnless varieties and differing maturity.

Opportunity

"The GRDC NVTs offer the opportunity to see how the yield of new lines and commercially available lines stack up against each other in varying environments. Growers can then take this research and combine it with their own knowledge of management requirements to select the best variety for their farming system."

Pulse agronomy, Septoria management in the low rainfall



• BCG Research and Extension Officer, Brooke Bennett, who will be discussing National Variety Trial results on the day.

zone, silicon trials, soil carbon work, BCG's herbicide matrix and year-round fodder trials are also on the program and will provide an opportunity for farmers to connect with researchers and their work occurring in the region, for the region.

Gates open at 8 a.m. with onsite catering available from breakfast through to drinks at the conclusion of the day.

This event is free for BCG members and \$50 for non-members. To become a member,

visit bcg.org.au For more information on becoming a member or regarding the field day call (03) 5492 2787.



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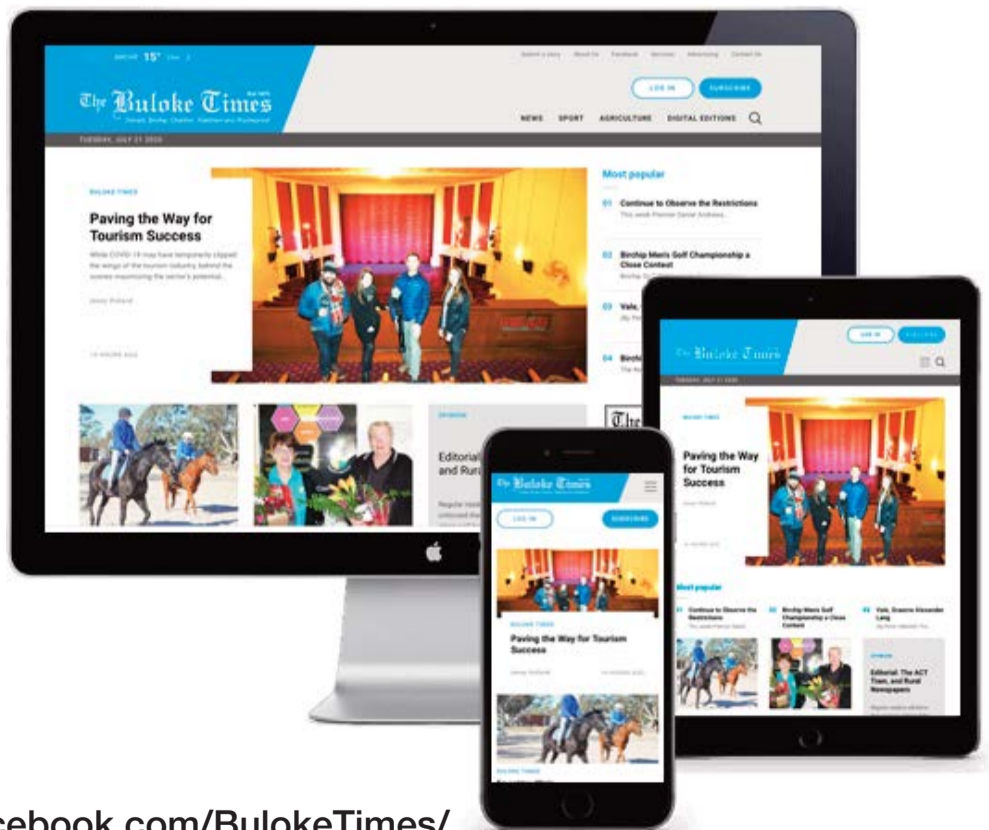
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Kara Kara Shield Day at Wycheproof

Shield Day for Kara Kara Women was held Thursday, August 18, at Wycheproof. There were a lot of very pleased ladies when the rain held off for the day, and they didn't get wet.

Wycheproof was the host club, and their course was in beautiful condition, and ladies were also looked after with some lovely soup upon arrival and the afternoon tea was beautiful.

Shield Day and Association Day were both played on the day, with some great results.

Donald was the Scratch Winners for Shield Day with a score of 469: Mandy Male 82, Kerry Murphy 89, Debbie



• Di Johnston, veterans' winner.

Burton 90, Jenny Leishman 96, Evelyn Adams 112.

Second was Charlton with 481; 3rd. Wedderburn 514; 4th. Wycheproof 562; 5th. Birchip 584; 6th. St. Arnaud 584.

Charlton took out the Handicap Kara Kara Shield event with a 393: Rebecca Heenan 70, Diane Roberts 75, Wendy Laffin 80, Janice Boyle 84, Chris Livingston 84.

Second was Donald 397; 3rd. Wycheproof 399; 4th. Wedderburn 414; 5th. Birchip 421; 6th. St Arnaud 442.

Boort had a few pull out in the morning, and only had 3 out of 5 playing, unfortunately.

Association Event

Results:

Scratch

"A" grade: Dianne Johnston, Boort, 80.

"B" grade: Jenny Leishman, Donald, 96.

"C" grade: Jeannie Grylls, Wycheproof, 106.

Handicap

"A" grade: Rebecca Heenan, Charlton, 70.

"B" grade: Di Roberts, Charlton, 75.



• Association Day winners, left to right, "A" grade, Rebecca Heenan, Di Johnston, "B" grade, Jenny Leishman, Di Roberts; "C" grade, Jeannie Grylls, Beth Thompson.

"C" grade: Beth Thompson, Wycheproof, 74.

Chic Morgan Memorial Team Event, team of 3 from one club: Charlton, Wendy Laffin, Diane Roberts and Bec Heenan.

Nearest the pins: 3rd., Wendy Laffin; 8th., Di Johnston; 13th., Maureen Trollope; 16th., Di Johnston; 18th., Diane Roberts.

Veterans (donated by Kara Kara Life Member, Shirley Hargraves - 65 and over): Dianne Johnston, Boort.

A huge "thank you" to all involved, to Wycheproof for its hospitality, and to the Kara Kara Match committee, Di Johnston and her team, for their hard work.

A great day was had by all.

• A photograph of Charlton's Handicap Shield team has appeared in a previous edition of the "Times".



• Chick Morgan Memorial Teams Event winners, Charlton's Rebecca Heenan (left), Wendy Laffin and Di Roberts.



• Scratch Shield winners, Donald's Jenny Leishman (left), Mandy Male, Debbie Burton, Evelyn Adams and Kerry Murphy.



• Association Handicap winners, "A" grade, Rebecca Heenan; "B" grade, Di Roberts; "C" grade, Beth Thompson.



• Scratch winners, left to right, "C" grade, Jeannie Grylls; "A" grade, Di Johnston; "B" grade, Jenny Leishman.

Birchip Golf

Junior Golf on Friday saw four young boys learning the art of chipping and putting.

Willow Ryan was the best with the putter, Denley Tyler won the chipping, and River Ryan the driving competition - Drive, Chip and Putt.

River won after a putt off with 6.

Welcome to Denley and Archie Tyler.

On Sunday the Kara Kara combined men's Shield Day and Champion of Champions were held at Birchip, with 10 teams taking part.

Congratulations to St. Arnaud, which won the scratch event, and to Culgoa on winning the Handicap Event.

The Champion of Champions title went to Andrew

Kane, from Boort, and Junior Champion was Sol Kelly, from Culgoa.

Thank you to all ladies who helped with the catering.

Ladies' Wednesday competition saw the ladies take part in Pink Lady Day for Breast Cancer, the fourth round of the Silver Spoon, the Monthly Medal.

All ladies came dressed in Pink, with the stand out winner of the best dressed prize was Heather Hogan, Pink Skirt and all.

There were 2 teams vying for the Pink Lady teams event, and Steve Clifford, Sue Davis and Maureen Trollope took out the event with 27 points.

The individual winner of the day was Heather Hogan, with Steve Clifford, runner-up.

Heather was spot on with the putting also.

Nearest the pins for the day were Heather Hogan on Birchip Cafe No. 3; Steve Clifford on the Birchip Newsagency No. 7; Maureen Trollope on the Hogans Transport No. 11; and Steve Clifford on the Birchip Automotive 17th..

The Monthly Medal went to Heather Hogan, and also the fourth round of the Silver Spoon.

The final of the Silver spoon will see Heather Hogan, Maureen Trollope and Di Lehmann play off.

Next week will be a Stableford event.

The year is coming to a close very quickly with the Closing Day of Kara Kara to be played at Charlton on September 8.

— "Leftie".



• From back: Jeremy Dean, Austin Dean, Maggie Wilson, Ella Walsh (with the ball), Tariq Gerardi, Mark Trollope, Sassia Coffey, Eva Coffey, Henry Bourke.

Prevention is the Key

National and international evidence highlights the effectiveness and importance of community engagement in preventing harms from alcohol and other drugs, and this is especially relevant in high-risk populations such as young people.

Young people are going through significant social, physiological and developmental changes and in this phase of their life, prevention strategies have the potential to positively influence behaviour that will last through their adult years.

Thus, prevention has become the key focus of the work the Birchip Neighbourhood House's LDAT is doing to reduce alcohol and other drug (AOD) harms, particularly amongst young people in their local community.

One of their most successful strategies has been a multi-generational indoor sports competition conducted over the past six weeks at the Birchip indoor stadium.

The indoor sports competition was organised by Simone Christie, manager of the

Birchip Neighbourhood House in a bid to address some of the important preventive factors identified by the ADF (Australian Drug Foundation) such as participation in supervised leisure activities, sense of belonging/connectedness to community and family, and participation in positive activities with adult engagement.

The sports competition has been lots of fun for people of

all ages, with children, parents and other adults from across the community playing in the same team or against each other in two rounds of netball, basketball and hockey.

The fun was evident, and there was much laughter, especially when the older players overtook their younger counterparts. It has been great to see the camaraderie between the age

groups, with many of the children finding a new appreciation for their parents' sporting prowess.

The games have all been played in good spirits, and whilst there was no overall winner, several teams declared themselves the winners! But ultimately, everyone is a winner, as it takes a whole of community approach to implement effective prevention strategies.

Birchip Hosts Kara Kara Golf's Shield Day Titles

Boort's Andrew Kane won his ninth Kara Kara Golf Champion of Champions at Birchip on Shield day last Sunday.

His 73 off the stick gave him an eleven shot margin over Luke Kelly, from Donald.

The junior champion was Sol Kelly, from Culgoa, with 98, only one shot clear of Judd Durie, from Sea Lake.

The Birchip course was in great condition, probably the best it has been for many

years, but recent rains made scoring very difficult.

Shield Day is also a team event with clubs having a team of five players playing for scratch and handicap shields. All ten clubs in the Association were represented.

St. Arnaud won the scratch shield with a score of 420, from Donald on 428 and Boort on 444.

The Handicap shield went to Culgoa with 381, from Donald and Sea Lake, tied on 387.

Results from the competition held in conjunction with Shield Day.

"A" grade: Scratch, Andrew Kane (Boort) 73; Handicap, Liam McNeill (Wedderburn) 85-11-74.

Handicap runner-up, Graeme Male (St. Arnaud) 84-9-75.

"B" grade: Scratch: Dick McLennan (Wycheproof) 89; Handicap, Sol Kelly (Culgoa) 98-30-68. Handicap runner-up, Judd Durie (Sea Lake) 99-26-73.

NTPs: 3rd, Cameron Warne (Culgoa); 7th, Riley Doran (Birchip); 11th, Owen Bailey (Wedderburn); 17th, Andrew Kane (Boort).



• Photo of Champions: Sol Kelly and Andrew Kane.



• St. Arnaud team: David Lanyon, Graeme Male, Craig Burn, Scott Wright and Jake Male.



• Culgoa team: Sol Kelly, Cameron Warne, Peter Bell, Dale Poyner, Mark Trollope.

North-Central Netball First Semi-finals

“A” Grade

Boort v. Sea Lake-Nandaly

Boort got a good jump early, and seemed to be first to settle those first final nerves. It didn't take long for the Tigers to find their feet and calm the nerves, either. A large crowd had filled the stadium for what was showing early signs of a terrific game to come.

Carly Isaac in the centre for Boort showed no signs of having missed several weeks away prior to finals, and took control of the midcourt early, providing Boort plenty of goal ring opportunities with her speed and agility to hit circle edge with confidence. Issy Coutts in the GS position for Boort had great positioning and well timed leads under the post, and was aided by the ever-reliable Georgia Sheahan who showed a calm composure from start to finish.

In the same goal circle, Boort coach Roxy Train took 2 crucial intercepts early to stamp her mark on the game.

Up the other end, it was Asela Finch and Ash Roberts who settled the Tigers into the quarter with composure and patience with possession. First quarter break saw Boort take the lead by 1. Best players Roxy Train and Ash Roberts.

Ash Roberts and Asela Finch went into the second quarter with a bang, again showing great restraint and skill in the air defensively. Boort found it much more difficult to penetrate circle edge in the second quarter and even harder to keep possession if it was in the air anywhere near Finch.

Roberts meanwhile was able to take clean intercepts outside the circle that demonstrated some of the best timing and decision making you'll see in country netball.

For Boort, Georgia Sheahan had to lift to match opponent Roberts's efforts, and that she did. Her cut and drive through the midcourt freed Isaac up to help move the ball into the goal ring when they needed it. Sophie Perryman in the Tigers' goaling circle found more ball this quarter through the effective feeding of Monica Ellis in the centre.

Second quarter was a draw, with each side finding the ring 7 times each. Best players were direct opponents Ash Roberts and Georgia Sheahan.

In the third, Finch found her rhythm for rebounds in particular. Boort seemed to recognise the defensive dominance of the Tigers in the air, and switched to a ground level approach to feeding in the ring. Inaccuracy plagued both sides with the outstanding level of defence being demonstrated by both sides.

An injury to Carly Isaac late in the quarter meant some changes to the Boort line up. Sea Lake took the third quarter 10 -8 with Asela Finch and Roxy Train best players.

With only 1 goal separating them at 3-quarter time, the stage was set for a big final quarter which certainly didn't disappoint. Boort's goaling end, led by Sheahan, improved their confidence and efficiency under post, with Issy Coutts putting more shots up and tapping some crucial rebounds to Sheahan to capitalise on the workrate of their midcourt.

In the Sea Lake-Nandaly goaling end, the Triplett sisters (Ebony WA and Sophie GS) combined well with Sophie Perryman to utilise their baseline well and reward the timing of Monica Ellis, who continued to treasure possession in the centre. Ash Roberts maintained her outstanding defence as fatigue started to set in across the court with many players. Pressure building into some unforced errors meant that momentum swung several times for both sides. Goal for goal in the final seconds the whistle went with a draw and overtime to be played out.

Again goal for goal in the first 5 minutes, before a switch of end and finally, a break and some momentum to the way of the Tigers, thanks to the defensive pressure and intercept from Roberts once again. Final scores: Sea Lake-Nandaly 44 d. Boort 40.

Best players: Ash Roberts (Sea Lake-Nandaly Tigers) and Georgia Sheahan (Boort).

“B” Grade

Boort v. Charlton

The game started with a quick pace that saw the dominance of the Charlton shooters make great use of the ball and establish confidence to shoot early. Boort took a little longer to find the ball and convert scoring opportunities. Erin Twigg and Grace Hosking in Boort's defensive end worked tirelessly, but found the passing accuracy from the Charlton midcourt and the impressive timing and reach of Maddy Schultz and Lucinda Holmes-Brown in goals to be exceptional.

In Boort's midcourt, Kath Lanyon worked hard to direct the play and find circle edge for goalers Ash Egbers and Kazzandra Adams, who provided a strong holding position under the post.

For Charlton, Liz Riley in GD worked hard under post and, importantly, provided impressive run and carry out of defence that bolstered her team mates and set the pace of the game.

An unfortunate injury to Boort GA Ash Egbers, after some impressive drives under post and confident goaling meant a reshuffle for the Boort side. Eliza Perryman and Kristen Gooding found their way into the game, putting much needed pressure on the Charlton midcourt. Charlton took control of the game in the second and third quarters before Boort showed some fight in the fourth quarter, with Adams continuing to be the backbone of the team under the post. Hosking was consistent and worked hard all game, taking some lovely intercepts and rebounds throughout to give Boort more opportunities.

Charlton, led by Liz Riley's speed and direction on court, though, proved too strong for the Magpies, winning comfortably, 54 to 38.

Charlton best players: Liz Riley (Charlton) and Kazzandra Adams (Boort).

“C” Grade

Wedderburn v. Birchip-Watchem

“C” grade was a shooter's game, both ends providing the crowd with some impressive long range goaling and determined rebounding efforts. Ingrid Gould for Wedderburn



• Against a backdrop of spectators seated at the northern end of the Donald indoor court, Wedderburn's Abby Benaim attempts to intercept a pass meant for Birchip-Watchem's Petria Frank, during the “C” grade semi-final. Also pictured are the Redbacks' Ashlea Rigg and Georgia Fry, and the Bullettes' Chloe Gleeson.

worked tirelessly in the Centre and never wavered throughout the game, providing direction and drive on to circle edge. Her feeding the ball into GS Susan Lockhart proved to be too strong for the Bulls' defence. Bec Coffey for the Bulls worked hard and combined well with Centre Maggie Wilson.

For Wedderburn's defensive end, Ash Rigg was a strong presence, with great footwork and consistent contesting both at ground level and in the air.

For Birchip, goaler Chloe Gleeson put her terrific reach to good use and converted well, but needed more opportunity from her midcourt. Susie Lockhart for Wedderburn was unstoppable in the ring, shooting from long range with ease and directing play down court gave her Redbacks the confidence they needed to run away with the game and win convincingly. Final score Wedderburn 50 to Birchip-Watchem 32.

Best players: Susan Lockhart (Wedderburn) and Maggie Wilson (Birchip-Watchem).

17-and-Under “A”

Boort v. St. Arnaud

The 17s competition has been a tightly held one all season, so this game was highly anticipated and drew the crowd and passionate support to show it on Saturday. St. Arnaud's 17s team has been building in confidence throughout the year, with many playing two full games a week, filling their senior sides as well. The development and experience of these players from having been exposed to senior opposition regularly was evident. Under pressure, both team with their young stars were impressive, and provided the crowd with an exciting outlook to the future of the senior talent in NCNA.

Isabell Hand, Polly Douglas and Keegan Amos worked hard in the air for St. Arnaud to ensure the game was played on its terms. Boort found spurts of momentum, but could never break free, it seemed. Annie Perryman in the centre for the Magpies was a terrific driving attacker that hit circle edge with confidence and accuracy that many senior players would be envious of. Just as impressive, Eliza Perryman's work rate to give and go in the goal circle as GA for



• St. Arnaud goal defence, Polly Douglas, fires a high pass over the head of Boort's Eliza Lanyon during the 17-and-under “A” semi-final. Also pictured are the Magpies' goal shooter, Tayla Gooding, the Saints' goal keeper, Amy Greenaway, and Boort's Alice Lanyon (right).

the Magpies was nearly as good as her accuracy. In the second quarter, after an evenly fought first one, with St. Arnaud taking a 1-goal lead, it was Eliza Perryman who turned up the intensity and demonstrated some very impressive netball across two thirds, both attacking and defensively. For St. Arnaud, some crucial turnovers from Polly Douglas and effective attacking gave Isabell Hand scoring opportunities that weren't wasted.

Late in the final quarter, with what seemed certain to end in a draw, both sides showed terrific composure under pressure. Treasuring possession, it was a turnover from St. Arnaud and the conversion from Isabell Hand that progressed the Saints through to the preliminary final, in what was an outstanding match from both sides. The future is in good hands, and this is one competition that spectators need to keep an eye on for future finals!

Final scores: St. Arnaud 35 d. Boort 34.

Best players: Eliza Perryman (Boort) and Isabell Hand (St. Arnaud).

17-and-Under “B”

Birchip-Watchem v. Sea Lake-Nandaly

In the 17 “B” competition, it was a tightly held game for the first half, with little

separating the two teams. Both goaling ends played an impressive holding game and showed good accuracy under post. Zaida Tait for the Tigers, being only 13 years of age, is definitely one to watch as an upcoming talent. Her speed and decision making in GA was far beyond her years, and provided the tigers with great opportunity in front of goal. Short in stature she makes up for that in spades with her speed, passes and timing!

For the Bulls, Bethany Haha held terrific positioning, and converted with great accuracy. Centre Tylah Haslam worked hard the entire game and ensured her goaling teammates had ample opportunity.

Defensively it was Matilda Rickard who showed terrific composure in GD, chasing loose balls and contesting the high lobs that the Tigers had been relying on for Kiera Barton in GS. Ada Bourke was another who stepped up for the Bulls, with some terrific defensive play as she has done all season. In the end it was the Bulls proving too strong for the Tigers, winning 43 to 28.

Best players: Matilda Rickard (Birchip-Watchem) & Zaida Tait (Sea Lake-Nandaly).

14-and-Under “A”

Wedderburn v. Boort

The first game of the day started with both sides a bit

nervous whilst in possession. Some rushed passages of play and unforced errors made for a scrappy first few minutes, before the defensive end of the Magpies was able to settle. From here the Boort girls were able to capitalise on the defensive efforts from Phoebe Henderson in GD. GA Emma Malone seemed to find her confidence off the back of her GD team mate's pressure and turnovers, also rewarding her midcourt's effective attacking play to convert accurately from most areas of the ring. For Wedderburn, Chloe Looby in defence worked hard, but found the task of containing Malone to be difficult, with confidence building. Katlyn Norman in the centre for Wedderburn also provided strong defensive pressure, but was unable to create the vital turnovers that the Redbacks needed.

In the third quarter, Redbacks' GA Amelia Buschmann increased her work rate to bring her side back into contention; however, the strength of Henderson and Malone proved too strong in the end.

Final scores: Boort 28 d. Wedderburn 20.

Best players: Phoebe Henderson (Boort) and Amelia Buschmann (Wedderburn).

Bulls Under-17s Snatch a Thriller

The first semi-final of the under-17 football competition shaped up to be a riveting contest. Birchip-Watchem and Charlton had met on two previous occasions this season, with each side securing one win and finishing with 40 points for the season.

The first quarter confirmed that the game would be a close and fierce contest, with both teams battling hard to score. The Bulls' Riley Hogan kicked the first goal of the quarter, winning the ball in front of goal and kicking straight to put the Bulls in front.

Charlton was attacking well; however, the Bulls' Harry Cook and Lachy Randall were creating turnovers with strong tackling. Both teams had fantastic passages of play, with strong marking and running down field.

The Navy Blues' Nick Thompson showed outstanding reach to mark in front of goal; however, the swirling wind was making it difficult to score.

Charlton was starting to gain some momentum in attack towards the end of the first quarter and only a fierce tackle from Samuel Hogan prevented the Navy Blues from scoring in the final minutes. At quarter-time, Birchip-Watchem 1.2 (8) led Charlton 0.5 (5).

The Bulls commenced the second quarter with renewed effort, with ball-winner Riley Hogan having a huge impact. The Bulls maintained possession for the early minutes of the quarter, resulting in a great mark by Connor Lee, who slotted home the Bulls' second goal.

Charlton was working hard to score, and its determination was rewarded with a goal from Nick Thompson, who was outstanding for the Navy Blues around the ground.

The younger Bulls were stepping up under increased pressure from Charlton, with Ethan Bergman taking a crucial mark in defence and Charlie Barber spoiling well. However, the Navy Blues were relentless in attack and scored three quick goals, including two by Nick Thompson, to take the lead for the first time.

Although the momentum was starting to turn in Charlton's favour, the Bulls' Connor Lee kicked a long goal against the run of play to keep the Bulls in touch. At half time, Charlton 4.5 (29) was leading Birchip-Watchem 3.3 (21).

Once again, the Bulls appeared to be revitalised after the break and looked to close the gap quickly. Ty Colbert ran through the midfield and kicked to Charlie Frank, who kicked the Bulls' fourth goal. This reduced the margin to three points.

However, Charlton continued to pile on the pressure, with two quick goals to Oscar Bourke and Nick Thompson giving them a 14-point advantage, the biggest margin so far.

The Bulls refused to capitulate, with Ty Colbert kicking a great goal to reduce the margin to 8 points. Riley Hogan was able to smother several kicks and apply pressure to Charlton's attack. Ty Colbert and Charlie Frank combined to get the ball into the Bulls' forward pocket, in the hands of the reliable Connor Lee, who kicked his third goal of the day. This put the Bulls within two points of Charlton; however, the Navy Blues were able to mount a final attack and kicked a goal just before the siren. At three-quarter time, Charlton 7.7 (49) was leading Birchip-Watchem 6.4 (40).

The scene was set for a thrilling final quarter, and much of the play in the first few minutes was in the Bulls' forward half. Both teams were desperate in their defence, with young Ollie Cook spoiling what looked like a certain Charlton goal. Riley Hogan and Connor Lee combined well through the middle to provide the Bulls with a further scoring opportunity, which was slotted home by Charlie Frank for his second.

Charlton was quick to reply to the scoreboard pressure, with



• Charlton's Elliott Fitzpatrick touches Connor Lee's shot for goal. No. 31 for Charlton is Chaise Markham.

Oscar Bourke scoring again to maintain a 9 point buffer.

The Bulls counter attacked with determination, keeping the ball in their forward half and intensifying the pressure on Charlton's defence. This resulted in another goal to Charlie Frank, his third for the day.

With six minutes to go, Charlton's lead had reduced to two points. The Bulls' supporters were starting to sense an upset, and Austin Dean was able to create a turnover as the result of an excellent tackle. A penalty provided young Chriswin Daniel, one of the Bulls' under-14 stalwarts, with the most important kick of the day right in front of goal. Chriswin kicked truly to put the Bulls ahead by four points.

The Bulls defended frantically for the last few minutes, with Ollie Cook and Samuel Hogan executing some crucial tackles.

Charlton had one final chance to win, with Nick Thompson running hard into the forward line. However, the kick was marked by Noah Dean under pressure, and the Bulls managed to hold on to win an incredible contest.

The final score: Birchip-Watchem 9.6 (60) defeated Charlton 8.8 (56).

Goal kickers for Birchip-Watchem: C. Lee (3), C. Frank (3), T. Colbert, R. Hogan and C. Daniel.

Goal kickers for Charlton: N. Thompson (4), O. Bourke (3) and J. Olive.

Best for Birchip-Watchem: Riley Hogan (Noonan Tyres and C & R Colbert), Connor Lee (TMC Enviro), Austin Dean (Bowen's Sports Store) and Charlie Frank (Jake and Billy Noonan).

For Charlton: Bailey Dixon

(GMG Financial Group), Nick Thompson (Walsh Motors), Ned Zagame (Roberts Windrowing & Fencing Contractors), Cooper Boyle (Clifford Constructions) and Elliott Fitzpatrick (Nutrien Ag Solutions).

Down the Middle?

On Wednesday, August 24, there were 10 ladies who played a 4BBB stableford, draw for partners after play event which was gratefully sponsored by Jasper & Co.

The winners were Debbie Burton (36 points) and Lindy Morgan (30 points) with a combined score of 66 points. Runners-up were Margot Paynter (28 points) and Maree Cullen (25 points), 53 combined points.

Nearest the pin winners were Lindy Morgan, Donald Auto Electrical 3rd; Margot Paynter, Weir's 7th and Donald Mechanical and Tyre Service 14th; Debbie Burton, Donald Community Bank 16th.

Next Week

Our annual tournament consists of 4BBB Men's and Ladies' on Friday September 2, Men's 27- and 18-hole stroke on Saturday and Sunday is Mixed Pinehurst.

As we are small in numbers any help would be greatly appreciated.

Highlights and Lowlights

Welcome home to Jean Hogan and Captain Maree who have been chasing the sun!

The saga of the dam continues. Poor Margie Quick put 2 balls into the dam today. Pretty as a picture in the sunshine – who would think it could be so nasty!

Lindy won a NTP and immediately gave it to Margie to relieve some of the pain!

Margie also did a bit of bad driving, but it was in Debbie's golf cart not driving the

ball. No-one was injured but Margie said "Never again!"

Jenny Leishman was hot and cold, but it had absolutely nothing to do with the weather. Jenny chipped in twice, then had 2 "swishes" and followed up with a 3 putt! After winning the Association "B" grade scratch title last week, has learnt that golf is a great leveller!



• Margaret Quick.



• Chriswin Daniel boots the sealer for the Bulls during the under-17s' first semi-final against Charlton. Watching on is Connor Lee.



• The infamous dam on the third hole.

Grand Final Berth the Reward

Birchip-Watchem and Donald, North-Central football's two best performed teams of the 2022 season, face off in tomorrow's second semi-final at Sea Lake, and what a fierce contest it promises to be.

At stake is a grand final berth, the winner taking the direct route into the season decider in just over a fortnight's time, while the loser will be confronted by Sea Lake-Nandaly, waiting in the wings after a very convincing first semi-final victory.

The vast expanses of the Sea Lake Community Complex Oval will provide an excellent venue on which the outstanding skills of the two competing teams can be displayed.

During the home-and-away season, the Bulls and Royal Blues have met twice, Donald emerging victorious in round 3 at Birchip, while Birchip-Watchem secured a hard fought 6 point victory in round 10, at Donald.

Line by line, player by player, the Bulls and Royal Blues are loaded with talented players in outstanding form, which bodes well for a very entertaining encounter.

Capitalising on their own strengths whilst combatting those of the opposition, will keep both non-playing coaches, Trevor Ryan (Birchip-Watchem) and Rohan Brown (Donald), and their respective benches, occupied big time, as the battle unfolds, ebbing and flowing across Saturday afternoon.

One of the crucial battles will be contested in the ruck, where Birchip-Watchem giant Lochlan Sirett goes up against Donald's Reece McNally.

Both have been enjoying outstanding form of late, and their influence, at centre bounces, throw-ins, ball-ups, and in general play around the Sea Lake oval, will have a huge bearing on opportunities created for two outstanding

midfields, and the eventual outcome.

From defence to attacks, there is very little separating the Bulls and Royal Blues, therefore making the most of every opportunity to score will be crucial.

Birchip-Watchem's attack is built on three key contributors, Nathan Gordon (who has not played against Donald this season), Will Sheahan and Daniel Castellano.

Among those charged with restricting their influence will be Donald defenders Ryley Barrack, James Wall and Scott Wood.

At the opposite end, the Bulls' defence, led by Dale Hinkley, Lachlan Ryan and Josh Booth, will be pitted against high marking uncle/nephew combination, Leigh and Will Burke. Josh Potter is another who can also have a big impact in the air.

The loss of dynamic small forward Blake Grant with a shoulder injury has come as a blow for the Royal Blues, but there is no shortage of smaller types to help fill the void, including Mick Foster, Sam Griffiths and Rian McGough.

Clayton Hinkley (Birchip-Watchem) and Darcy Harrison (Donald) both cover huge distances and are vital cogs for their respective teams with their run and carry as they patrol the ground on the wing.

Without doubt, the most important battle zone will be in the midfield, where the Bulls' Stefan Pye and Jacob Christie will be hoping his fellow powerful mids, Elliott Jaeschke and Marshall Rippon, are fit to play, joining them in a relentless battle for supremacy.

Opposed to them will be the Royal Blues' formidable combination of Ross Young, Ryan Hards and Brody Haddow, with quality backup in Sam Griffiths.

Recovery from injury will play a big part in Donald's final starting 21, with Darcy Harrison, Mick Foster, Rian McGough, Daniel Venditti and Ryan Hards all missing game time in recent weeks.

To overcome the Bulls, who are led from front by Lochlan Sirett, with good support from fellow big man Dylan Adkins, the Royal Blues will need to be at their very best.

Last time the two met, two important players played virtually no part in the outcome.

Nathan Gordon was still in Adelaide, preparing to rejoin the Bulls, and Royal Blue Ross Young was forced out after only 10 minutes through injury.

Both are expected to play pivotal roles in what promises to be an absorbing and enthralling contest of wills, skills and physical strength.

Birchip-Watchem finished the season on top of the ladder, having lost only one game, and deserves to start favourite to progress straight into the season decider.

But that one loss was against Donald, and the Royal Blues have gained in strength (Ryley Barrack is now familiar with those around him in defence, and Reece McNally) and self belief throughout their home-and-away series.



• *Let's Tango!* Among the players capable of having a big influence on tomorrow's second semi-final at Sea Lake are opposing ruckmen, Birchip-Watchem's Dylan Adkins and Donald's Reece McNally, pictured during their round 10 encounter. Also pictured (left) is powerful Bulls' midfielder, Elliott Jaeschke, while at right, is the Royal Blues' Hayden Geddes.

There's no margin for complacency or overconfidence. The team that is prepared to crack in over the full four quarters should win a close encounter.

Bulls by 5 points.

Royal Blues or Tigers?

In their last meeting, back in round 14, Sea Lake-Nandaly got the jump on Donald and set up a morale-boosting victory.

And tomorrow, the Tigers will head back into the fray against the Royal Blues, with a home ground advantage, but it will take much more than that to secure victory and a berth in the 2022 grand final.

Donald finished on top of the ladder for a reason, its form being very good throughout the season.

Key players will be ruckman Brannon Walker, Ryan Leeder, Josh Talty and Nat

Clark, while for the Tigers, Nathan Wight up forward, Connor Michael in the ruck, Joel Clohesy, Harry Harcourte and Zac Martin can have a major influence.

The Royal Blues will be strengthened by the return of several players from senior duty, including Tom George, Dylan Gowlett and Ryan Leeder, giving them the best opportunity to advance to the season decider.

Donald by 23 points.

Magpies to Fly High in Tigers' Lair?

Sea Lake-Nandaly's junior teams also have the added advantage of playing tomorrow's final at home, but it will be how the teams perform on the day that counts.

In the under-17s, the Tigers must counter the influence of Boort's Tom Potter, Frasier Holland, Alex Cockerell and Sam Barraclough (who have all had senior experience this season).

Among the Tigers who will need to be at their best are Thomas Cox, Jed Daniels, Max Cahoon and Will Conlan.

Boort has the potential to win, by 11 points.

Under-Fourteens a Toss Up

Donald and Sea Lake-Nandaly tangle in the first game of second semi-final day, in what promises to be a very entertaining warm up to the day's main event.

Baxter Donnellon, Mitch Godkin, Ethan Clapham, Bayley Coleman-Young and Luca Rice will lead the Royal Blues' charge

For the Tigers, it will be Prue O'Sullivan, Judd Durie, Brayden Allan and Taj Borlase taking the challenge up to the opposition.

Donald by 7 points.



• *Birchip-Watchem 17-and-under award winners: Back row, left to right, 17-and-under "B", Emily Braine, Bethany Hiha, Ada Bourke. Front: 17-and-under "A": Sassia Coffey, Jenna Angel.*

Birchip-Watchem Netball Awards

Sincere apologies to Birchip-Watchem 17-and-under netball award recipients for omitting their photograph from the report of the club's presentation evening held recently.

Congratulations to Emily Braine, Bethany Hiha, Ada Bourke. Front: 17-and-under "A": Sassia Coffey, Jenna Angel on their season's achievements.



Goldacres North-Central Football League

Second Semi-finals

at Sea Lake, Saturday, August 27

9.30 a.m.: Under-14s, Donald v. Sea Lake-Nandaly
10.55 a.m.: Under-17s, Boort v. Sea Lake-Nandaly
12.35 p.m.: Reserves, Donald v. Sea Lake-Nandaly
2.30 p.m.: Seniors, Birchip-Watchem v. Donald

HOCKEY —

11 a.m.: Under-12s, St. Arnaud v. Charlton
12.30 p.m.: Under-15s, St. Arnaud v. Birchip-Watchem
1.40 p.m.: Women, Charlton v. Birchip-Watchem
3.15 p.m.: Men, St. Arnaud v. Donald

NETBALL —

9.30 a.m.: 14-&-Under, Birchip-Watchem v. Wyche.-N'port
10.20 a.m.: 17-&-Under "B", Donald v. Boort
11.20 a.m.: 17-&-Under "A", Donald v. Birchip-Watchem
12.30 p.m.: "C" grade, Sea Lake-Nandaly v. Donald
1.45 p.m.: "B" grade, Wedderburn v. Donald
3 p.m.: "A" grade, Wedderburn v. Charlton

Gates open at 8 a.m.. Admittance \$12 (inc. GST)

NO B.Y.O. Alcohol

A great day of family entertainment, with comprehensive catering facilities available.
• Limited car parking for the disabled

Lance Standfield, N.-C.F.L..