

BANNOCKBURN NEWS - MARCH 25

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Editor:	Stuart McCallum 0438 904 961	Submission deadline: Wednesday 14 May
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**BANNOCKBURN FIRE
BRIGADE**

**100 YEAR
COMMUNITY CELEBRATION**

 **6pm-8:30pm Sat 5th April 2025**

 **25 High Street Bannockburn**

Join the Bannockburn Fire Brigade as we
celebrate 100 years of volunteer service
to the community!

**Torchlight
Parade from
8pm
along Milton
Street**



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NOTE FROM THE EDITORIAL TEAM



Welcome

We thank the community for your contributions to the Bannockburn News.

This is YOUR Bannockburn News helped by the Community which can only happen with your contributions.

Going quarterly

While we find our feet and continue to grow this newsletter, the revised Bannockburn News will be published quarterly. This will also reduce costs for our repeating advertisers, but it will make it hard for people wishing to promote coming events. Therefore, we will be providing free space on our website for Community Notices between editions. Just send us your flyers and we will post them up on our Facebook page and website.

Dates and deadlines (2025)

- 1st June. Submission deadline: 14 May
- 1st September: Submission deadline: 13 August
- 1st December: Submission deadline 12 November

Editorial help wanted

Our editorial team is thinly spread. If you would like to become a part of our Bannockburn News team please contact us. We need help with editing, promotion, graphic design, reporting and photography. If you are considering a career in journalism this experience would look great on your CV. If you are retired already, it is an excellent way to give a little back.

Disclaimer

The opinions expressed by contributors are not necessarily those of the publishers. The publishers may edit or reject contributions and accept no responsibility for errors or omissions.

Advertising

Advertising is a great way to let residents know about your business. Rates are as follows:

- 1/9 page: \$17.50
- 1/4 page: \$29.00 (B/W) and \$44.00 (colour)
- 2/9 page: \$29.00
- 3/9 page: \$35.00
- 1/2 A4 page: \$47.00 (B/W) and \$88.00 (colour)
- Full A4 page: \$85.00 (B/W) and \$160 (colour)

Classifieds are free for small, personal notices from residents.

About us

The volunteer editorial team consists of

- Stuart McCallum, Editor,
- Julia Makin, Graphic Design, Web Support & Co-editor,
- Jenny Taylor, Treasurer
- Linda Sayers, Team member & Facebook

Design

With thanks to Julia Makin from Sink or Swim Marketing, www.sinkorswimmarketing.com.au.

Previous editions

Previous copies can be found online at bannockburnnews.com.au.

Bannockburn Community Planning Group Inc. (BCPG)

This newsletter is one of the priority projects of the BCPG. This group aims to represent the wishes of the community and to lobby council in areas where people feel that things could be done better given better information. Please feel free to join our group and guide the healthy growth of our community.



BANNOCKBURN FIRE BRIGADE

100 YEAR COMMUNITY CELEBRATION



6pm-8:30pm Sat 5th April 2025



25 High Street Bannockburn

Join the Bannockburn Fire Brigade as we celebrate 100 years of volunteer service to the community!

- ✓ Vintage fire truck display
- ✓ Food Vendors
- ✓ Brigade History Display
- ✓ Skills challenges
- ✓ Fire simulation demonstration
- ✓ Meet Captain Koala

**Torchlight
Parade from
8pm
along Milton
Street**



BANNOCKBURN CFA: WE'VE TURNED 100!

» The Bannockburn Bushfire Brigade was formed on the 28th of January, 1925, when a group of Bannockburn locals came together with a shared purpose: to protect their neighbours, their families, and their homes from the danger of fire.

From those early days with basic equipment and few resources we've grown into the modern Brigade that serves our community today.

Now 100 years later, we have modern appliances and equipment but the heart and backbone of our Brigade is still our members. Committed locals, volunteering our time and energy in a proud tradition of service, courage and dedication to protect our community from fire.

So this year we celebrate the last 100 years of service to our community and look forward to many, many more years of service to come.

Community Celebration and Torchlight Parade: Saturday 5th April from 6pm.

On Saturday 5th April we're inviting our Bannockburn Community to join us in celebrating our 100th Anniversary with a Community Celebration at our station and a Torchlight Parade of CFA and emergency services vehicles.

Our fire station will be open from 6pm for all to come and see our brigade history displays, historical and modern fire trucks and enjoy fun activities. There'll be food stalls for those who are peckish and a fire simulation table for those who are keen to learn.



Then at 8pm, there will be Torchlight Parade along Milton Street from the Bannockburn P-12 College to the Bannockburn Heart for all to enjoy. We'd love our community to line Milton Street and celebrate our 100 years of service with us and our emergency services colleagues.

Our summer activity

This warm, dry summer has brought a number of fires across the State but luckily not too many in our patch. We had a number of our members travel to support the fire fighting in the Grampians and we thank them for their efforts.

Locally, we've made sure we're ready and on standby; particularly on those bad fire days when the high temperatures and hot northerly winds mean that fires quickly get out of control.

The season is not over yet so we ask our community

to remain vigilant and prepared.

Fire restrictions

Fire restrictions will remain in place for the foreseeable future until the warm, dry weather abates and the Country Fire Authority declares that the Fire Danger Period is over for Golden Plains Shire. Keep an eye on our Facebook page for updates.

By Dale Smithyman

Bannockburn Fire Brigade 100th Anniversary

CALLING ALL PAST MEMBERS!



The brigade is trying to get in touch with past members so they can join the 100th celebrations in 2025.

Drop us a line by:

Email 100years@bannockburncfa.com
or via the Bannockburn CFA Facebook page



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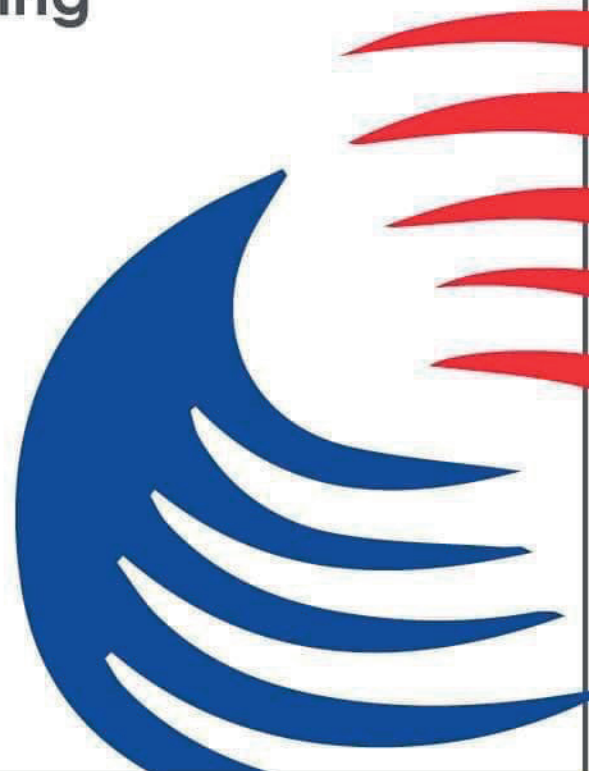
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locals, helping locals - We've got what you need to get the job done

COMMUNITY NEWS

» These articles are provided by local community groups within the Golden Plains Shire. If you wish to submit content for future editions, please email: contact@bannockburnnews.com.au

Enabling better conversations - St John's Bannockburn.

There is a time in any community group meeting, a relaxing coffee, or dinner with those who are important to us, to happily spend quality time and conversation together. Here are five suggestions to enable better conversations within our community groups or with our significant others.

Stay connected on the mundane stuff

Make sure we allow time for the superficial day-to-day stuff. Try including a gathering time before the set meeting start time, including some refreshments. Allowing for the surface level stuff makes going deeper later that much easier. Consider how others are approaching similar problems.

Be curious

There's always more to learn about one another – and ourselves! Instead of assuming we know their thought process, be curious and ask questions that go beyond the surface level answers. And when an issue arises, keep an open mind.

Ensure emotional safety

Effective relationships within community groups mean that we are not worried about being judged, criticized, shamed, or rejected for revealing our true self or

expressing an alternative thinking. It means treating one another with empathy and kindness and listening to understand the issue better and a mutually agreeable outcome.

Get uncomfortable

It's normal to have topics that you avoid talking about for many reasons, including personal, past experience. To work through issues that require those tough conversations we need to be willing to be uncomfortable.

Be intentional when you need to

When things are working well within the community group, or in your relationships, it feels like the conversation flows on its own. But sometimes, it can help to set some guidelines, have an agenda, and provide structure. This keeps the conversation about the purpose of the community group, or an issue we have in common.

Surface-level discussions have a time and place in our formal and intimate relationships. But if we want to connect on a deeper level, enabling better conversations will strengthen relationships and purpose.

Based on <https://www.prepare-enrich.com/blog/5-secrets-to-better-conversations/>

By The Revd Dr Tim Smith Vicar
www.goldenplainsanglican.org
revdrtim@hotmail.com
0412 673 152



The poster features a light green background with a large teal circle on the left. Inside the circle is a white sign with the words "GOOD" and "HEALTH" in black, separated by a red heart. To the right of the circle, the words "WELLNESS EXPO" are written in large, bold, white letters. Below this, in smaller white text, it says "Meet your local wellness professionals; mind, body, financial & wellbeing". At the bottom, there are four logos: Bannockburn & District Chamber of Commerce, Bannockburn Bowls Club, blendd Healthy Smoothie Bar, and Golden Plains Shire. The date and time "SUNDAY 23RD MARCH 2025 9AM - 1PM" are prominently displayed in the center.

GOOD
HEALTH

WELLNESS EXPO

Meet your local wellness professionals; mind, body, financial & wellbeing

SUNDAY
23RD MARCH 2025
9AM - 1PM

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Chamber of Commerce

Bannockburn BOWLS CLUB
71 BURNSIDE RD
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blendd
HEALTHY SMOOTHIE BAR

GOLDEN PLAINS SHIRE

JANEATBLEND@OUTLOOK.COM

MEN'S SHED

» The Bannockburn & District Men's Shed is situated at 2B Pope St Bannockburn behind the kindergarten & no 2 oval.



Members attend on Tuesdays & Thursdays from 9 am till 4 pm.

We have members from Geelong, Anakie, Stieglitz, Inverleigh, Lethbridge, Teesdale & of course Bannockburn. While we have a comprehensive workshop with modern wood & metal working machinery under constant use by members, some blokes simply like to come in for a cuppa & yarn & perhaps a game of pool.

Some of us run a sausage sizzle at Bannockburn Mitre 10 on the second Saturday of every month.

Once a month we attend a luncheon with our partners at various localities around the region.

Prospective members are welcome to drop in for a cuppa & look around.

Contact Secretary Geoff Wild 0407 835 731 or President Syd McConachy 0408 525 905.

Did you hear? The Revised Bannockburn News was Featured on Pulse FM

On Tuesday 25 February, the revived Bannockburn News was featured on Pulse FM. You can hear the interview here (scroll to the 45 minute mark): <https://947thepulse.com/shows/tuesday-front-page/>

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THE SUMMER OF TENNIS



» We have had a busy few months of tennis at the Bannockburn Tennis Club.

The Summer season is almost over, and we have entered 5 junior teams and 4 senior teams in the Tennis Geelong competition. In total we have 4 teams playing in the upcoming finals and we wish them good luck.

Over the school holidays a 3-day tennis clinic was held at the courts by our coaches and it was great to see so many kids in attendance with big smiles on their faces. They all had a ball!

We have other opportunities for everyone to play tennis too! On Wednesdays we have a free junior social hit from 4pm and everyone is welcome. There is a senior hit

starting at 7pm and costs \$5 to cover the use of lights and tennis balls. It has been great to see some new faces coming along and having a hit. We are a very friendly and welcoming club, so come along and enjoy the fun.

We are currently taking registrations for the upcoming Tennis Geelong Winter competition. Please get in touch if you are keen to play.

(bannotc@gmail.com)

By Rachael le Maître



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We welcome new members
To find out more information contact:
Secretary Judith - 0447 621 776
Social Media Officer Linda - 0433 998 115
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PEOPLE, PLACES & GROUPS

» *Second in the series,
on organisations in
Bannockburn.*

The Bannockburn Book Group started 36 years ago when Beth Kershaw contacted the Council of Adult Education and was sent a kit on How to Start a Book Group. Seven friends and acquaintances, all young mothers, agreed to join and the rest is history. There are still two of the original members in the group.

The CAE process allowed each book group to choose their books for the year. But as it was late in the year, CAE chose the first book which was Myra Breckenridge – a satirical book about trans-sexuality set in Hollywood in the 1960's. Although by today's enlightened standard this book is not controversial, it surely was in 1989. It generated a lot of discussion and all 8 members, including Beth returned for the next month. What does this say about book club members?

Beth says that "Bannockburn Book Group has been a wonderful opportunity for like-minded people to get together, share thoughts about books but also to explore numerous topics that had very little to do with the books. We have also talked about our families, our children, our community, our travels and now our grandchildren. There is always lots of laughter and fun."

I would add that it has been a wonderful way to keep track of the major milestones, the ups and downs, comings and goings of

each of our lives. Not necessarily as close friends but as interested and caring companions along the way

CAE has unfortunately abandoned book groups, so we have now joined the Bannockburn Library book group program. We will continue to meet at members' homes on the second Wednesday of each month. We all look forward to meeting at Beth's home as she bakes the best cakes.

Our new baby, which will be the second child for the youngest member of the book group, is yet to enter the world in time to be

introduced in this edition. The group has come full circle and is looking for members, especially younger members, to continue the tradition.

For more information contact Marion Wilde on 0401 209 316.

By Marion Wilde



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BANNOCKBURN GOLF CLUB

» Saturday 14 December 2024 saw the official opening of our full 18 greens.

Prior to the official start of proceedings, our MC for the day, Dick Van Den Bosch, introduced a number of our special guests who had been instrumental in the project to transition from sand scrapes to greens. Paul Reeves, the course designer from Pacific Course Design, Steve Speechley, the course builder and greens shaper and Peter Frewin who provided invaluable ongoing support and advice to our own Superintendent David Johnson throughout the build process. Other guests included many of our esteemed Life Members and their families, Wendy Tottenham representing the South Western Golf Association and Chris Crabbe from Golf Australia; in addition to many others who joined us to witness the next phase in our long history.

With the field of 99 players gathered, together with our guests and visitors, all witnessed Life Member Stan Madden representing past and current members of the Bannockburn Golf Club, cut the ribbon on the first tee at 8.15am before the players headed off for the shotgun start to the Open Day Stableford event. Stan remained on the 1st Tee to hit the first ball of the day. With many firsts being played out on that special day, three stood out. It was Dick Van Den Bosch who sank the first putt into the 18th with a par. Dick was one of the driving forces during the transition period

and so the honour of sinking the first ball on the new 18th green was most appropriate. The second stand out moment was a Hole-In-One on the 1st by club member



Zane Carroll. Ironically, Zane sponsors our Hole-In-One recipients through his company the Zantagra Group. I expect he had great pleasure in writing a \$500 cheque

to himself when he got home! Well done, Zane.

Lastly, the winner on the day with a score of 41 points, Murray Satchell. Murray is a Life Member and stalwart of the club and was also instrumental as part of the original team who planned and mapped out the concept for the transition from sand scrapes to greens. Well done Murray on your success at the first event on the full 18 greens. One for the record books.

By Mick Jennings





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COMMUNITY NEWS

Bannockburn Angling Club Inc.

Our club, established in 1898, welcomes new members for monthly fishing outings catering to all interests. With 80 senior and 40 junior members, we promote catch and release. Catches can be weighed, measured, photographed, and recorded on club Weigh-in Cards.

For more information, contact Peter Levy at:
peterellenlevy@outlook.com M 0417 993 887.

Dolphins Basketball Club

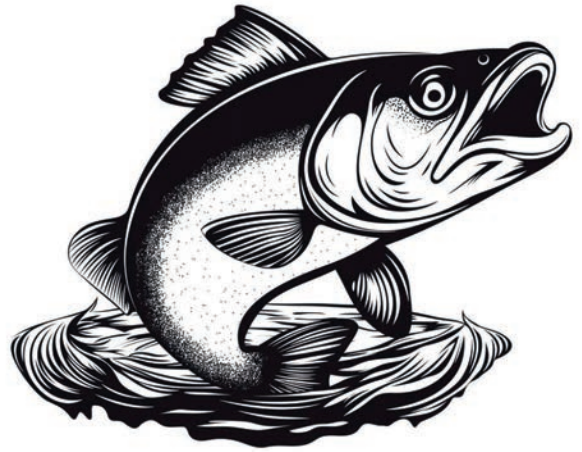
Dolphins Basketball Club is a volunteer-run, not-for-profit organisation offering Golden Plains athletes the chance to compete in Geelong United Basketball competitions. The club fosters community and youth engagement with a strong, family-friendly atmosphere.

We focus on making basketball enjoyable while developing players' basketball, athletic, and social skills. The club includes junior and senior men's and women's teams, from beginners to high-performance athletes. Programs include:

- Basketball Victoria's Aussie Hoops for young children
- Advanced programs for high-achieving juniors
- Opportunities to represent Geelong in the Victorian Junior Basketball League

Training is held at Bannockburn P12 College. For more information, contact:

<https://dolphinsbasketball.org.au/>



Club President Vince Gandolfo:
0411 328 277
president@dolphinsbasketball.org.au

Junior Netball at Bannockburn Y

The Bannockburn Y has a great development pathway for those just starting out in junior netball with the Net Set Go introduction to netball program on Tuesday afternoons at 4.30pm and our Junior competition on Monday afternoons from 4.10pm.

It's a great learning environment for juniors with supportive coaches and umpires. We are currently calling on any budding primary school aged netballers keen to create an extra team for our Monday afternoon mixed competition! We need 4 more player to fill our remaining team.

If you're keen either call the centre on 5281 2316 or email bannockburn@ymca.org.au for more information and register your interest.

Catholic Parish of Meredith

Mass times

- Winchelsea - St. John the Baptist @ 6pm Sat 22, 29 March.
- Anakie – St. Brigid @ 9am Sun 30 March.
- Meredith – St. Joseph @ 9am Sun March 16, 23 March.
- Bannockburn – St. Mary MacKillop @ 11am Sun March 23, 30 March.
- Inverleigh – Sacred Heart – NO MASS



GOLDEN PENS: WRITE SIDE UP

» G'Day from the Golden Pens –Write Side Up writing group. We are a group of like-minded folks who meet every fortnight at the Bannockburn library.

We aim to provide the newly re-launched Bannockburn newsletter with a story from one of our members each month. Our genres include, mystery, crime, science fiction, fantasy, romance and all things in-between. Over the course of the year, you will be introduced to each member as their stories are featured.

We sincerely hope that you enjoy our work and we are always up for feedback, of any kind, and if anyone thinks that they would like to pop in to see us with a thought to join we welcome all. Our email address is goldenpens4@gmail.com

Our first story is from Peter Wilding and It's from a homework subject called 'Breathe Just Breathe'

We hope you enjoy it. Regards Wendy.

Ariadne and Ahithophel

Ariadne was in a hurry. She raced down the stairs, through the kitchen, and out the back door, which bounced off the wall and slammed shut behind her. "In

my day a teenage girl would have had a nice mare or filly to ride, not an entire stallion." expostulated Grannie from the corner by the fire, where she sat warming her legs. The older she got, the colder her legs seemed to feel.

"But we aren't in your day any more, Mum." her daughter said, shaking her head. "Ah, but does the stallion know that?" replied Grannie.

They'd had this conversation so many times before. Myrna had reservations about Ariadne's stallion, but she'd been in the stall when he was foaled, and they'd seemed to form an instant bond.

Story continues next page.



LIBRARY NEWS

Bannockburn Library has a range of activities in March.

This month we present, Backyard Bee Keeping, an information session presented by the Geelong Beekeepers Club. This event is perfect for beginners or anyone curious about the world of bees! Join us to explore the basics of this fascinating hobby. Thursday 13th March, 2:30 to 3:30.

Each week we discover stories, songs and rhymes at our regular preschool programs.
Details: Toddler Time, Tuesday's 10:30 to 11:00.
Story Time, Thursday's, 10:30 to 11:15.
Baby Time, Friday's, 11:30 to 11:50.

The Junior Mix. Fun after-school activities including art, craft, games, tech activities, LEGO and more. No need to book, sessions run on Wednesday's from 3:45 to 4:45. Ages 8+

At [Garden Chat](#), share your gardening tips and learn new ideas about various garden topics. Come along on Tuesday 11th March, 2:00 to 3:00.

Interested in exploring new books? [Book Chat](#) meets monthly. Talk about the books you are reading and gain new recommendations. Join us on Monday 31st March, 10:30am-11:30am.

Places are still available to join our [Library Book Club](#). We read and explore a new title each month, available at the library. The next Book Club meeting is on Wednesday 19th March, from 2.30pm to 3.30pm.

To book & for more information, visit the [Geelong Regional Libraries' website](#).

Contact Bannockburn Library Ph: 4201 0661
www.glrc.vic.gov.au

Contact Bannockburn Library Ph: 4201 0661
www.glrc.vic.gov.au

Meanwhile Ariadne had reached the stable, and opened the door to lead Ahithophel out. The big grey tossed his head and neighed deafeningly, eager to be out and away on this bright sunny morning. The stall was no place for him! He was feeling a bit frisky; he longed to run, and jump, but obediently let Ariadne put the straps on him. She rode almost bareback, with just a light pad and simple straps to hang on to, not reins and a bit. She had what seemed like almost a telepathic connection with Ahithophel; he instinctively seemed to know what he wanted, and he was always eager to obey – up to a point. Today she was going to meet Alastair. He wasn't much of a rider, not really into horses, but she liked him anyway. She'd agreed to take him for a ride on Ahithophel to see if the experience could waken any enthusiasm in him. She vaulted lightly onto Ahithophel's back, then with a clatter of hooves on cobbles they tore out of the stable yard in her hurry to meet him.

Meanwhile Alastair waited quietly by the gate to his family's farm. They just had ordinary horses, pure beasts of burden, farm tools that needed feeding, nothing like the fine mounts his girl's people bred. He wasn't jealous or anything; but he just couldn't understand Ariadne's fascination with horses. He thought of her stallion and imagined how it would pull in harness; he had no vision of horses beyond them doing that. Tools, pure and simple. But he loved her, and wanted to seem interested.. A cloud of dust rose into the early morning air. That'd be them now.

Ahithophel slowed to a standstill in just the right position for Alastair to mount. He grumbled about the dust she'd stirred up, grumbled about the lack of stirrups – he wasn't the gymnast Ariadne was – but he was soon up on that broad back,

perched on the thin pad and hanging on for dear life.

Now when a teenage girl tells her boyfriend to hang on tight, of course he does. When her horse goes into a full gallop almost from a standstill, of course he hangs on to her. Very tightly. And his hands might not be in the right place. "Al – loosen up a bit, I can't breathe!" she gasped. Reluctantly he loosened a bit. It was then that Ahithophel really found his wings. Four mighty strokes and a jump – and they were airborne. Al was terrified. Here they were hurtling along at treetop height, Ariadne laughing her head off.

"Your Clydesdales can't do this!" she exclaimed. "Now do you understand why we love this breed?"

Meanwhile Ahithophel noticed they were over The Muggery, as the locals called it, Farmer O'Rourke's mug farm just outside Medium Goblin. It was naughty, but the stallion loved to come in low over the flock, scattering the muddle-headed little white things as they tried to escape. It was silly really, mugs had no predators, but they scared easily and had this horrible fear of being dropped. Maybe that was why they stampeded when Ahithophel came over, thinking he'd drop on them. It was then that Alastair's wandering hands led to his downfall.

As Ahithophel banked to come in low for another pass, Ariadne suddenly shrieked. Ahithophel banked a bit too sharply, forgetting he had another passenger. The weight shifted, and with a sudden yell Alastair fell from Ahithophel's back and hit the ground with a nasty meaty thump.

Ariadne screamed. Ahithophel landed instantly, all contrite. Ariadne was off even before he'd even furlled his wings, running over to where the still figure lay amid shards of broken china. First-aid knowledge warred with emotion, as she threw herself down on his chest.

"Don't die on me", she shouted. "Breathe, breathe!"

Are you retired or semi-retired?

Are you 60 or over?

If you are ...

....then you may be interested in our group.



A social Men's group

meeting in Bannockburn twice a month:

***Club meeting (Meal \$25) in Cultural Centre**

6 - 9pm First Tuesday each Month.

***Bus Trip from Bannockburn Cultural Centre to various destinations! \$10 p.p.**

9am to 4:30pm 3rd Tuesday of the month

Contacts : Rod McKenzie: 0408 527 704

Murray McMillan: 0408 036 783

Keith Burton: 0409 439 831

SEWCIAL ARTS AND CRAFTS

» Sewcial Arts & Crafts (pronounced social) began in May 2023. This group has been a dream of mine since I retired early, and it has become more popular over the time.

A welcoming community Initially, we gathered in the Barwon Room with about 4-6 participants each session. Since February 2024, when we moved to the Leigh Room, our numbers have doubled, and more people are eager to join us when they can. Our group includes members aged between 60-80, who bring a wealth of skills and ideas to share.

Explore your creativity

Whether you are into beadwork, crochet, knitting, card making, quilting, painting, or sketching, you will find kindred creatives here. Some of us also delve into local and family history. This year, we are excited to add even more fun activities like singing and ukulele playing.

Join us!

Sewcial resumed on Thursday, January 23, 2025, from 12:30-3 p.m. in the Leigh Room at the Bannockburn Cultural Centre. We meet every second and fourth Thursday. The initial cost is \$10, then \$5 for subsequent sessions. Our March meetings will be on March 13 and 27. April will be 10, 24, and May 8, 22.

Extra gatherings

When there is a three-week gap between the fourth Thursday and

the second Thursday of the following month, we meet up for lunch or visit places related to Arts & Crafts, adding another layer of friendship and inclusion.

Please feel welcome to visit us during the above times to see if Sewcial is a group you would like to join. No need to be an expert; it's a wonderful opportunity to learn something new and enjoy a relaxing afternoon with us.

By Di Thomson, Coordinator.

Contact by text message at 0424807428 for a prompt reply.

SEWCIAL ARTS & CRAFTS

Leigh Room

Bannockburn
Cultural Centre,
adjacent to library

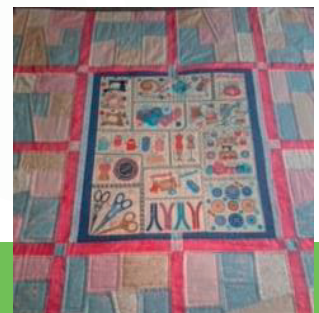
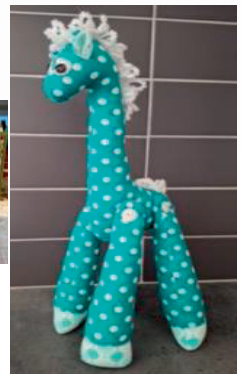
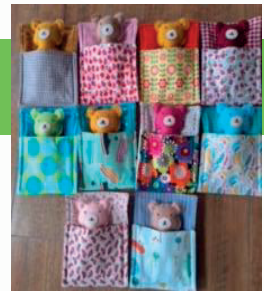
Every second & fourth
Thursday

12.30 - 3pm

Everyone is welcome to
bring along their latest
project or learn a new craft

Cost \$10 initially, then
\$5/session

Contact Di Thomson, by text
first, on 0424807428



BANNOCKBURN WILDLIFE RESCUE

» Bannockburn Wildlife Rescue works tirelessly behind the scenes to assist sick, injured, and orphaned wildlife in our region—and they need your support!

Operating in a rural area, the small group of dedicated volunteers; based mostly in Bannockburn, Teesdale, Lethbridge, She Oaks, Maude, and Anakie; travel hundreds of kilometres each week to help animals in need. Unfortunately, not every call results in a successful rescue. Volunteers are also tasked with checking, relocating, and marking deceased wildlife, taking injured animals to the vet, transporting orphaned animals to carers, and even euthanizing macropods on-site when necessary. In just six months, the team



Bannockburn
Wildlife Rescue

managed 509 macropod cases—an increase from 27 in December '23 to 168 in May '24—without even accounting for the numerous incidents that go unreported.

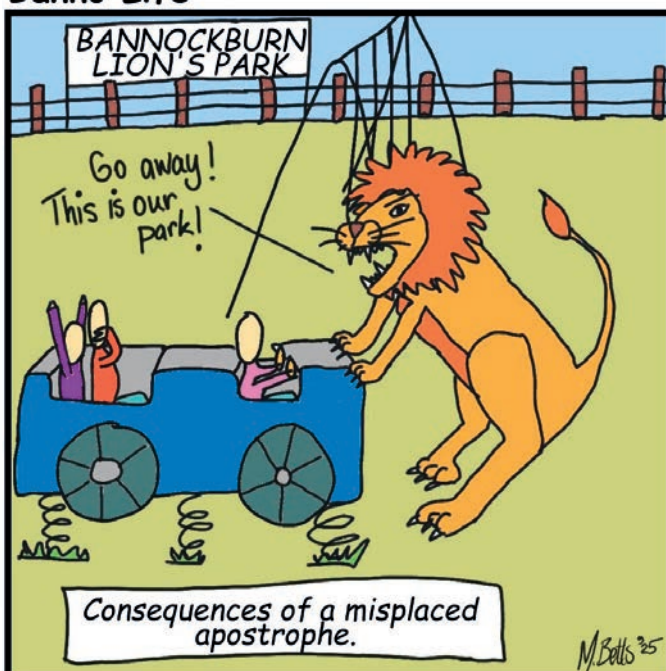
According to organiser Angela Sumner, many of these cases were discovered when a volunteer happened to be in the right place at the right time, but the team also handles a wide range of other wildlife cases, including birds, possums, lizards, and koalas. Angela stresses the importance of raising awareness among drivers: "When wildlife is hit by a vehicle, it's crucial to stop and check for injuries. It's rare that

kangaroos or wallabies are unhurt after being struck—often, we find them days or weeks later, slowly dying from untreated injuries. A simple phone call for help can make all the difference."

Now a registered not-for-profit with charity status pending, Bannockburn Wildlife Rescue continues to raise funds through donations and grants to support the volunteers. Angela is also seeking funding to provide firearms training and equipment for a local volunteer to safely tranquilise animals when needed.

If you would like to support this important cause through a donation or by volunteering, please contact Angela Sumner at 0430 212 653 or email bannockburnwildliferescue@gmail.com.

Banno Life



ST JOSEPH'S PARISH 150TH ANNIVERSARY

» Father Smythe celebrated the first mass of the district at the home of Mr John Campion in 1853.

The Catholic Parish of Meredith was established in March 1875, under the care of Father James Hegarty.

The District of Meredith, until the late 1850's was included in the Parish of St Mary's Geelong. It was later transferred to and served from Ballarat. In 1874, when Ballarat was created a separate diocese from Melbourne, Meredith and Elaine were transferred back to Geelong, and arrangements were made to form a parish between Geelong and Ballarat.

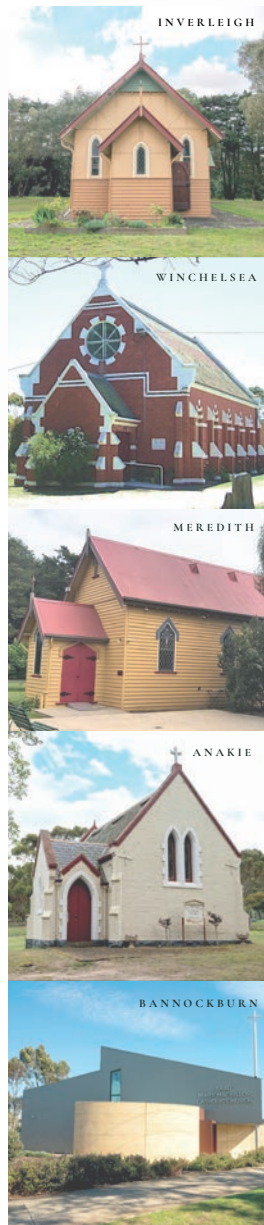
In March 1875, the Parish of Meredith, comprising Meredith, Elaine, Lethbridge, Anakie, Darriwil and Steiglitz was established. Although Steiglitz was a much larger population, Meredith was chosen as the Parish Centre because of its convenience to travel, being situated on the main road and the railway line between the growing towns of Ballarat and Geelong.

Lal Lal in 1960; Lethbridge in 2012 and Elaine in 2013. Bannockburn and Inverleigh transferred from the Winchelsea Parish to the Meredith Parish in 1998 and Winchelsea was welcomed in 2004. The parish now comprises:

- St Joseph's, Meredith
- St. Mary MacKillop, Bannockburn
- St. Brigid's, Anakie
- Sacred Heart, Inverleigh
- St John the Baptist, Winchelsea

You are cordially invited to join us for Mass at 11am on March 16th, concelebrated by Archbishop Peter Comensoli, Fr. Charles Balnaves and Fr. Joseph Panackal.

Followed by luncheon served in the garden at St. Joseph's.



YOU ARE
INVITED TO THE...

ST JOSEPH'S PARISH *150th* ANNIVERSARY MASS

CELEBRANT:

ARCHBISHOP PETER COMENSOLI

SUNDAY | MARCH | MEREDITH
16

28 LAWLER STREET MEREDITH

11am Holy Eucharist
Followed by a fellowship lunch

THE HISTORY OF OUR DISTRICT

» The stories below highlight the mysterious fire of the Bannockburn Shire Hall that occurred in 1876.

Victorian Government Gazette Friday June 2 1876 page 1074

Bannockburn Shire Hall at Leigh Road Burnt

Fifty Pound Reward

Whereas about 3 o'clock in the morning of Wednesday 3rd May the Shire Hall of the Shire of Bannockburn, at Leigh Road was completely destroyed by fire with all its contents : And whereas The council of the said Shire has offered a reward of Twenty-five Pounds for such information as will lead to the conviction of the person who originated the fire: Notice is hereby given that a reward of Twenty-five Pounds (supplemental to that offered by the Shire Council) will be paid by Government for such information as will lead to the conviction of the person or persons who set fire to the hall aforesaid.

John A. MacPherson
Chief Secretary's Office
Melbourne 31st May 1876.

The Ballarat Courier Saturday 6 May 1876

The destruction of the Bannockburn Shire Hall

With reference to the fire at Leigh Road, by which the Bannockburn shire hall was destroyed, the police have made every enquiry, with a view to discovering its origin. Mr Morris, the shire secretary, left the building all safe nearly twelve hours before the fire broke out, and he

cannot in any way account for the destruction of the property. The rate and cash books were safely locked up in the safe, together with other valuable documents, but of course many other books and papers were lost which will be difficult to replace, and which will be the means of throwing the council into confusion for some time to come. All sorts of rumours are going the rounds of the township with reference to the cause of the fire, but as yet it is shrouded in mystery, and will no doubt continue to be so. Sergeant Toohey inspected the debris on Thursday, and he is of the opinion, if the place was set on fire, it was fired from the inside. The residents are much alarmed about the fire, and they consider the Government ought to offer a reward for information which would lead to the discovery of the incendiary, as they are almost to a man of the opinion the building did not catch fire accidentally. We may state that the books and papers saved were in one of Dyke's patent safes, and although it was red hot the council's important literature was not injured by the heat. Water had been freely thrown over the safe, and the steam

generated in this manner appears to have found its way inside and slightly affected the contents of the safe.

Geelong Advertiser Wednesday 14 June 1876 Page 3

Shire Council Correspondence

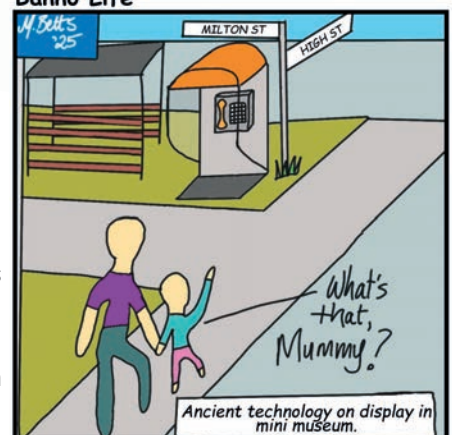
From the Superintendent of Police, with reference to the fire which destroyed the Bannockburn Shire Hall and stating the police could find no trace of incendiarism. The Secretary said he had informed the Superintendent of the amount promised by the Council as a reward.

By Dianne Hughes and is published here with permission.

Banno Life



Banno Life



LITTLE ATHS IS LOADS OF FUN!



» Corio Little Athletics Centre had 300 athletes mostly from Golden Plains, Lara, and Geelong's northern suburbs all competing together over summer at Viva Energy Athletics Arena.

Corio Little Athletics Centre had 300 athletes mostly from Golden Plains, Lara, and Geelong's northern suburbs all competing together over summer at Viva Energy Athletics Arena.

Little Athletics is a fun, social sport for all the family. Athletes learn fundamental skills that transfer to other sports, and build self-confidence.



All levels of ability are supported to achieve their personal best – our focus at little athletics.

Summer season consists of a range of age-appropriate track



and field events on Saturday mornings.

The free midweek training sessions were very popular due to the energy exhibited by a fresh new coaching team who worked alongside other longstanding coaches.

The benefits of participating in this extra training showed in the huge number of personal bests achieved over the season along with several long-standing records being broken.

Now the summer season is over, the focus shifts to the winter cross country season, May – August. This is lots of fun and doesn't take up much of your Saturday morning. Athletes run age-appropriate distances in various parkland locations around the Bannockburn, Fyansford, Lara and Geelong area.

Summer registration includes the winter season. Athletes joining in winter, pay a reduced Little Athletics Vic registration fee.

For information email: corio@lavic.com.au
Website: www.coriolac.com.au.



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Community Nursing & In-Home Care Support	available 7 days a week			

Bannockburn Community Health Centre: 27 High Street, Bannockburn VIC 3331

Contact Us ➔



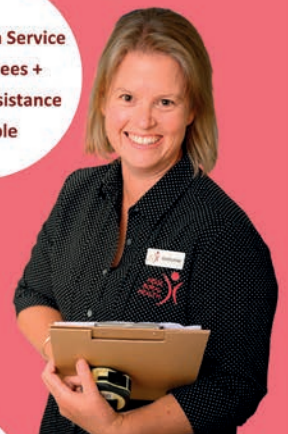
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Bannockburn



FRIENDS OF BANNOCKBURN BUSH LANDCARE GROUP

» For over three decades, a dedicated group of Bannockburn district residents has worked tirelessly to preserve and maintain the Bannockburn Bushland Reserve.

Despite changes in management—from Parks Victoria to DEECA and the Ballarat Environment Network (BEN)—the Friends of Bannockburn Bushland (FOBB) have remained a steadfast presence, offering invaluable local knowledge and support to governing bodies. Community involvement is widely recognized as an essential component of any bushland reserve management.

Under the stewardship of reserve managers such as Hedley Thomson and Roger Thomas, FOBB established a productive partnership with BEN. However, in late 2023, BEN transitioned to a new structure and rebranded as the Western Region Ecological Network (WREN), a limited company promising enhanced financial and governance support as well as funded work crews. Unfortunately, many of these commitments have yet to materialize, and relations between WREN and FOBB have soured.

WREN changed the locks last June and has barred FOBB from doing any work within the reserve. We can still walk in but we can't do any work such as litter collection, weed control, coppicing or firewood collection.

Since August 2024 the FOBB

Committee has been trying to establish a sensible "User Agreement" with WREN and DEECA that would allow us to continue our now neglected natural resource management work. Unfortunately despite all our efforts we recently received a letter from WREN stating demands that are quite unacceptable:

WESTERN REGION Ecological Network

427 South Rd, Bentleigh, 3204, Victoria

ABN: 05 000 792 005

Telephone: 0429 461495

Email: WRENinquiries@gmail.com



Western Region
Ecological Network

20/01/2025 Dear Fran and FOBB

In response to your email correspondence: 7th January 2025 We acknowledge there are issues you have raised in part with which WREN disagrees. We also acknowledge the ways in which we are all looking at moving forward.

We invite FOBB to nominate one or two members for consideration to the Bannockburn Sub Committee of WREN if you could please provide their contact details.

WREN will then consider their appointment and notify them when the next subcommittee meeting is to be held if board approval is met.

The Bannockburn Bush committee is a sub-committee of the WREN board and is advisory in nature. Membership is at the discretion of WREN. At present meetings are conducted on an ad-hoc basis as the need arises and are chaired by Tim D'Ombrian and or another member of the WREN board.

We are aware of many public comments historically and ones that are still being made which are not assisting anyone and can suggest that a nomination to the sub-committee should be separate to those making public comment. This would be more beneficial to the Bannockburn Bush Management in this the first year of us working together we ask you to please take this into consideration.

Another issue we haven't fully resolved is that of the trailer. Respectfully is it your position that it remains with FOBB or is it to be placed with WREN for its management of Bannockburn Bush as the trailer was always intended to do (that is manage the Bannockburn Bush) regardless of its disputed ownerships as the board has resolved there will be no separate management agreement with FOBB.

(No name given)

Acting Chair

Western Region Ecological Network

The trailer that is mentioned was bought by FOBB as part of a \$20,000 Volunteer Innovation Fund grant for working with Indigenous people on removing pines and Sugar Gums that are invading the native bush.

WREN has no known relationship with the Wathaurong who had been working with us and the trailer is registered in my name as FOBB Secretary. We also want to get on and build the Ironbark Arbour with Indigenous Art for use by the Scouts and other community groups. The FOBB committee has resolved to regain community and Indigenous access to our reserve.

*By Stuart McCallum,
Secretary, FOBB*

PICNIC ON NIMMONS BRIDGE

» A grand day out with a high and windy lunch.

Presented by the Woody Yaloak Historical Society, and proudly supported by Golden Plains Shire's Economic Development Unit, Scarsdale Men's Shed and the Mt Mercer Wind Farm, 28 interested people enjoyed a guided bus tour of the historic Smythesdale, Scarsdale area with Peter Ridsdale and former Councilor Ian Getsom.

Starting with some local Sparkling wine and delicious canapes at the Scarsdale Hotel (Great food, service and accommodation) and suitably fortified we toured the old mining and railway sites (what a mess we have made of our landscape in search of temporary wealth) arriving at Nimmons bridge for a windy picnic lunch.

Our shared picnic lunch boxes contained lots of delicious local produce but lacked provenance information. Belated thanks to the Meredith dairy and John Harbour quality butchers Ballarat.



Nimmons bridge was built in 1890 of Kauri timber to carry the railway line from Ballarat to Skipton across the mighty Woody Yaloak River. It is our third tallest surviving trestle bridge. It's 18 m high and 104

m long. It was damaged by fire in 1953 but was quickly restored and is now a feature of the Ballarat to Skipton Rail trail.

Source: [https://vhdheritagecouncil.vic.gov.au/places/Smythe's Creek Railway Viaduct](https://vhdheritagecouncil.vic.gov.au/places/Smythe's+Creek+Railway+Viaduct).



OUR NOISY NEIGHBOURS

» Bannockburn residents, at some point while trying to have a conversation outside, have likely been moved to say, "BE QUIET!" or perhaps something even stronger

This outburst was probably directed at one of two groups of birds that share our place in the country. Four of these birds belong to the cockatoo family, and one, the Rainbow Lorikeet, is from the closely related parrot family.

The most numerous of the cockatoos is the Long-billed Corella. These birds are very much 'local', with their natural range limited to western Victoria, far southeast South Australia, and north to the Riverina. They are usually seen in large, noisy groups, often numbering in the hundreds, moving to and from feeding and roosting areas. You'll typically hear them before you see them! They are often spotted on roadsides, feeding on seeds. They also dig for roots and corms, particularly enjoying the introduced onionweed, and can be a serious pest in crops. True to their name, they have a very long, pale bill, with a red forehead, and red across their upper chest.

The second noisy cockatoo is the Sulphur-crested. This bird is much larger than the Long-billed Corella, with a blackish bill and a bright yellow crest that it raises in alarm or when calling. They are less numerous in our area than the Long-billed Corellas but make up for this with an extremely loud and raucous call. While birds use their voices to communicate in

various ways, it seems that sometimes Sulphur-crested just like to make a loud noise for fun!

The third cockatoo in our area is the Galah, a favourite of many due to their grey and pink colouring. These birds are found throughout Australia and are seen here in small groups, or more often in pairs. While loud, their calls are gentler on the ear, often sounding like 'chill-chill'.

The fourth and largest of the cockatoos in our area is the Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo, found throughout southeastern Australia and Tasmania. These birds are usually seen in groups, moving between favoured feeding areas, flying slowly on broad wings and calling constantly. Their call while flying is perhaps one of the most ethereal of all Australian birds. However, when a group gathers in a Pine or Hakea tree to feed during the day, they can be extremely noisy, especially if they have young birds begging for food.

The last 'noisy neighbour' is the Rainbow Lorikeet, which belongs to the parrot family and is found throughout eastern and southeastern Australia. They are the most conspicuous parrot in our area, unmistakable with their blue head, red bill, and red and yellow underwing. They have a very loud, screeching call. Rainbow Lorikeets clamber about eucalypts and other flowering trees, eating nectar and fruit while keeping up their chatter. Over the last few years, Rainbow Lorikeets have been extending their range westward in Victoria. They can do this because they are particularly assertive, often bullying smaller lorikeets and honeyeaters to access food sources and breeding holes. For this reason, feeding Rainbow Lorikeets can be problematic. In Australia, the weather is mild enough that birds don't need supplementary feeding as they do in the northern hemisphere. However, it's understandable that we as humans like to see wildlife up-close, and feeding birds is one way to do this. Perhaps the best approach is to feed them a little, but not too often!



Rainbow lorikeet.
(*Trichoglossus molluccanus*)

Police and Polite kids

Readers of the excellent Leigh News (<https://www.inverleigh.org.au/leigh-news>) will have noticed in Chris's comprehensive Police Report that a major concern is young people riding scooters, escooters and ebikes in an unsafe manner and often without proper protection, particularly helmets.

On a recent visit to our supermarket I spoke to two groups of young people from our local P-12 College riding without helmets and passed on that there was a large fine for such an offence see (<https://transport.vic.gov.au/road-rules-and-safety/skateboards-scooters-and-roller-blades>) I was very pleasantly surprised by their polite responses. They thanked me for the advice and one boy offered to lend his mate his spare helmet. Well done Bannockburn youth. *By Stuart McCallum, Editor.*

BATESFORD, FYANSFORD, STONEHAVEN LANDCARE



» The term 'biodiversity' is shortened from 'biological diversity'. It describes the great variety of all life forms on Earth.

What does Biodiversity mean and why we should care about it ? The term 'biodiversity' is shortened from 'biological diversity'. It describes the great variety of all life forms on Earth, from the tiniest bugs living in the soil, to the butterflies in your garden, the plants they feed from, and the biggest whales in the sea. The healthier and greater the biodiversity the healthier we are.

According to the visionary scientist James Lovelock who proposed the 'Gaia Hypothesis', named after the ancient Greek goddess of Earth, the Earth System behaves as a single, self-regulating system with physical, chemical, biological, and human components which maintain the climate and biochemical conditions which make life on Earth possible. In other words everything is connected!

Another influence for the Gaia

theory and the environmental movement in general came as a side effect of the Space Race between the Soviet Union and the United States of America. During the 1960s, the first humans in space could see how the Earth looked like as a whole. The photographs like 'Earthrise' taken by astronaut William Anders in 1968 during the Apollo 8 mission became an early symbol for the global ecology movement.

Biodiversity is all the different kinds of life you'll find in one area—the variety of animals, plants, fungi, and even microorganisms like bacteria that make up our natural world. Each of these species and organisms work together in ecosystems, like an intricate web, to maintain balance and support life. The biological diversity we see today is the result of millions of years of evolution. It is constantly changing and evolving as some species adapt to new surroundings, become extinct, and others, over time, evolve into new species. We as human beings are an integral part of biodiversity and we can influence it in a positive or negative way.

If we humans allow the increasing rate of biodiversity loss to continue we will lose the essential services that biodiversity provides, therefore preventing us from handing down an invaluable gift to future generations. Whatever humans do, life will carry on in one way or another. But if we continue to emit greenhouse gasses and so change the atmosphere, then we risk producing dangerous and potentially runaway climate change. This could eventually stop human civilisation affecting the atmosphere, if only because there will not be any human civilisation left in the atmosphere. We could be close to a tipping point.

Gaian self-regulation may be very effective. But there is no evidence that it prefers one form of life over another. Countless species have emerged and then disappeared from the Earth over the past 3.7 billion years. We have no reason to think that 'homo sapiens', (humans), are any different in that respect.

We encourage you to contact us and find out more about our work. Check out our website where there is plenty of further information: www.bfslandcare.org.



Bannockburn and District Gardening Club Inc.

We have an exciting diary date for all garden lovers. On Tuesday April 22nd at 1:30 pm Lyn and Doug Gadd will be opening their beautiful garden at 90 Stevenson Rd, Bannockburn to the public. In addition to the garden there will be a speaker talking about all things fertilizer.



Bannockburn and District Gardening Club will provide a light afternoon tea. This is an afternoon not to be missed.

For further information please contact Freda 0414385886



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THE PADDOCK LAL LAL STRIKES GOLD

» The Paddock Lal Lal has won a prestigious Gold Medal at the 2025 Australian Garlic Awards for their exceptional Turban garlic variety.

This victory solidifies their place among Australia's finest garlic producers and highlights the dedication, expertise, and passion that drive their business.

Nestled in the heart of Lal Lal, The Paddock has a reputation for producing high-quality, chemical-free garlic that exceeds industry standards. Their Turban variety, known for its bold flavor, striking urple-tinged bulbs, and excellent storage qualities, stood out in the competition for its superior taste, consistency, and overall presentation.

"We are absolutely thrilled to receive this recognition," said Melissa Mortimer, founder of The Paddock Lal Lal. "Growing garlic is both an art and a science, and this award is a testament to the hard work and passion we put into every bulb. It's an honor to be acknowledged by the Australian Garlic Industry Association and to share this win with our community and customers."

The judging criteria, included uniformity, internal and external quality, aroma, flavour and overall quality. The Paddock Lal Lal's Turban garlic stood out, with its robust yet balanced flavor and excellent growing practices.

This Gold Medal win brings recognition and reinforces The Paddock Lal Lal's commitment to

sustainable and high-quality garlic farming. As demand for locally grown, premium garlic continues to rise, this award positions them as a leading name in the industry.

To celebrate this milestone, The Paddock Lal Lal is offering a limited discount of 10% to readers on garlic products. To take advantage of this offer use **BEN10** at checkout when you visit their website.

The Paddock Lal Lal also specializes in seasonal flowers with a commitment to sustainable farming practices and exceptional produce.

The Paddock Lal Lal also specialises in seasonal flowers with a commitment to sustainable farming practices and exceptional produce.



Melissa and Sean Mortimer: Award winning garlic growers.



Melissa: 0490 479 814

Email: thepaddocklallal@outlook.com

Instagram: [thepaddocklallal](https://www.instagram.com/thepaddocklallal)

Website: <https://thepaddocklallal.com.au/>

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D.L.A. ACCREDITED

DRIVE SAFE, DRIVE TOMORROW

THE INCIDENT AT FLETCHER & PARKER CORNER

» Another glimpse of
the past from Cambria
Parkinson.

North Balwyn in the 1940s was a rapidly emerging suburb, still semi-rural, with paddocks, rabbits and cows dotting the landscape. The dwellings were a mixture of 1920s weatherboards, lovely solid clinker bricks of the 1930s and the ubiquitous brick veneers of the 1950s. Living close to Doncaster Road, we could quite easily cut through between the houses to the shops. Milk and bread were delivered by horse and cart, ice and groceries by truck. Not everyone had a phone, fridge or even a car in those days.

People walked everywhere: to the shops, church, school and sport, but the principal transport out of the suburb was by tram. These "green rattlers" took us to secondary school in Richmond, and to the "pictures" or important shopping in the city. The Number 40/48 Route ran along Doncaster Road from Balwyn Road to Spencer Street. Chocolate from Ernest Hillier's or a book from Hall's Secondhand Book Store was a treat that made the five-mile stop 'n' start trip worthwhile!

The driver sat alone in his cramped little cabin at the front, whilst the conductor spanned the length of the tram, taking fares and dispensing tickets, checking our concession cards and generally keeping things in order. It was a taxing job: they were always on their feet, and always on the go; only rarely did a conductor sit down.

Everyone knew the tram route intimately. As a regular, I knew the vagaries of our line, including a sudden hook-bend at the junction of Bulleen and Doncaster Roads, where the famous Fletcher & Parker Real Estate stood. Passengers caught unawares were liable to fall over unless hanging onto a strap or bracing for the jerk.

On this day, one gentleman and I were the only passengers in the compartment up at the driver's end. He got up and made his way out to alight, standing in the open doorway facing out. Suddenly, I spotted a wad of money stuck down the back of the seat where he'd been sitting! Grabbing the bundle of notes, I darted after him. I tapped him on the shoulder, saying, "Excuse me," but, as he turned to take the money I thrust at him, we hit the Fletcher & Parker dogleg! To my absolute horror, he was falling backwards out of

the tram. In that split second, he grabbed the stanchion just inside the doorway. To top things off, the automatic door suddenly shut, trapping him by the wrist, his body almost dangling in mid-air!

The conductor raced over, and we both wrenched the door off him and dragged him back up the step. The poor shaken man staggered back into the carriage to sit down...

Ending with a bang, as it did, and not a whimper, I never found out what transpired, as that was my stop, and I got off the tram. Sixty years on, I still wonder about the part this seventeen-year-old schoolgirl played in that incident. What happened to the man...and the money?!

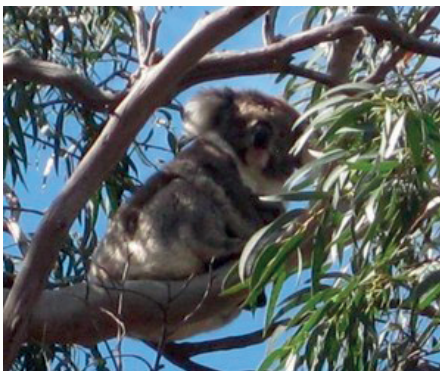
By Cambria Parkinson



THE MYSTERY OF THE DISAPPEARING KOALAS

» Have you seen a koala in, or near, the Inverleigh Nature Conservation Reserve in recent years?

We'd love to hear about it. Janet Vickers found this koala there in 2014.



I haven't seen one for at least 20 years. In the 80s and 90s it was not unusual to see a koala in the reserve occasionally. Manna gums and river red gums proliferate in the Reserve, and both are among the koala's favourite eucalypt species.

The most common reasons for koala population decline are habitat loss, fire, predation by feral animals and diseases such as Chlamydia. In the case of the Inverleigh koalas, the prime suspect is the Millennium drought (1997–2009). In her PhD research, Dr. Valentina Mella found that, during a long drought, eucalyptus leaves become drier, resulting in the koalas leaving their trees to search for water. During the drought all the ponds and creeks within the Inverleigh Reserve were dry for most of the time.

The good news is that koalas are gradually returning to the Inverleigh Reserve. Several members of the Friends Group, as well as other

interested people, have contacted me over the past two years, reporting numerous koala sightings. In one notable instance, a baby koala was seen sitting in the middle of the road at night. Luckily, our informant has a policy of always driving slowly through the reserve at night, so no harm ensued. Two instances of first-hand encounters with koalas were reported to me in February. I would be very happy to hear from you if you see any koalas in or near the Inverleigh Reserve.

The other good news is that a charity called the Koala Clancy Foundation is revegetating areas of farmland adjacent to known koala habitats in this region, including the Inverleigh Nature Conservation Reserve, for the purpose of establishing more koala habitat. The Koala Clancy Foundation would also love to hear from you about any koala sightings and also if you would like to help with the tree planting. Contact Janine Duffy, info@koalaclancyfoundation.org.au

Some koala facts

- Koala joeys are born only 2 cm long.
- Gum leaves are toxic to most mammals.
- Koala joeys eat some of their mother's droppings to obtain the micro-organisms they need to digest gum leaves.
- Koalas do not live in Tasmania, W.A. or the N.T.
- Koalas are not bears.
- The koala population is in steady decline.

By Keith Windle, Friends of Inverleigh Nature Conservation Reserve, keith@gmail.com 0429 651 298.



Bannockburn & District Men's Shed

2B Pope St Bannockburn (rear of Shire offices)

Tuesdays & Thursdays 9 am till 4 pm.

Well equipped workshop, meeting room

and pool tables. Prospective members are

welcome to drop in for a cuppa & look around.

Contact Secretary Geoff Wild 0407 835 731

or President Syd McConachy 0408 525 905.

FEATURED GRASS: CHLORIS TRUNCATA, WINDMILL GRASS

» Friends of Bannockburn Bush would like to provide Bannockburn News readers with a little insight into some different grass species each edition.

Grasses are among the most useful and valuable of plants (eg Corn, wheat, barley, oats and bananas) but some can also be a serious pest as weeds in crops and pasture (Couch grass, Paspalum, Phalaris and Cocksfoot) depending on your activity.

This month's grass is never a pest and is a very valuable grass to have. Many nature strips on the north side of the Bannockburn railway tracks stay green and grassy longer in summer due to the C4 grasses, Windmill Grass and Kangaroo grass.

Windmill grass, *Chloris truncata* is a native species, and indigenous to this area. It forms low tussocks which are easy to mow and not a bulky fire hazard in Summer

It is easy to spot at present on roadsides and in paddocks due to its typical helicopter seed heads which hold hundreds of dark triangular seeds, each with two small spines or awns.

It is special because like Kangaroo grass, *Themeda triandra*, it uses a Carbon 4 pathway in photosynthesis instead of the more common Carbon 3. The C4 pathway is more complex but more efficient in hot dry conditions and enables C4 plants to stay green and productive well after the C3 grasses have browned off.

Other C4 grasses include the weedy *Paspalum* and Couch grass. Their C4 pathway is one reason they are weedy! But not only grasses can use the C4 more efficient photosynthesis pathway. Other local C4 plants include: the tough *Atriplex* spp, *Suaeda australis*, Austral seablite and the weedy *Cyperus eragrostis*, Drain sedge.

See: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_C4_plants

Graziers with *Themeda* and *Chloris* in their paddocks would reduce the need to feed out.

A lawn or nature strip would need less mowing or watering. As climate change deepens, the C4 plants will become increasingly valuable for food production due to their ability to cope with higher temperatures and less water.

If you would like to know more about the chemical complexity of C4 plants there are several online graphics and videos that will exercise your brain. Just search C4 plants.

By Stuart McCallum, Friends of Bannockburn Bush



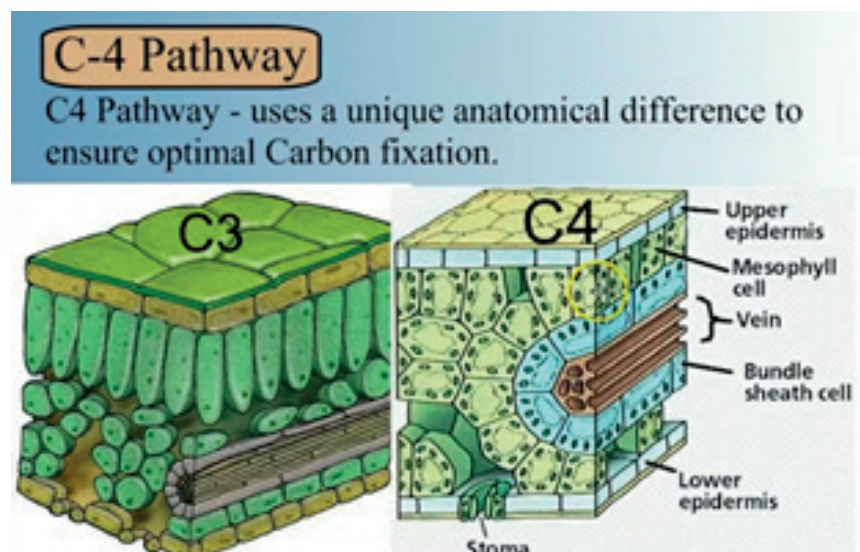
Chloris Tussock



Green seeds



Ripe seeds with awns





FROM THE MAYOR'S DESK

MARCH 2025

As we begin 2025, I'm excited to share an update on the many new projects and initiatives underway across the Shire.

Last month, I had the pleasure of attending the opening of the Don Wallace Recreation Reserve Oval upgrade in Teesdale, alongside Member for Eureka, Michaela Settle MP. It was fantastic to see this important project come to fruition for our community. The upgraded Reserve will provide a safe and welcoming space all-year-round for both junior and senior footballers and cricketers.

I would like to thank those who attended the Draft Budget 2025/26 online forum last month and who have lodged a submission. Your input has been vital in ensuring we prioritise service delivery for the future.

Council will hold a meeting at the Golden Plains Civic Centre at 6pm on Tuesday 1 April to hear budget submissions, and the final 2025/26 Budget will be considered for adoption by Council at its meeting at The Well in Smythesdale on Tuesday 25 May.

To learn more about the 2025/26 Budget process, visit goldenplains.vic.gov.au/consultations.

Council has published a 2025-2029 Council Plan What We Heard Report, which outlines feedback received during the extensive community engagement program undertaken in 2024.

The Council Plan is a crucial document which outlines Council's objectives and strategies for the next four years, so it's fantastic to see community members really engaged in shaping the future of Golden Plains Shire.

There will be further opportunities for the community to provide feedback on the Council Plan in mid-2025.

To view the What We Heard Report, visit goldenplains.vic.gov.au/consultations.

As a final note, I'd like to remind residents that collection of the purple-lidded glass recycling bin started on Monday 17 February 2025. We appreciate your help to improve recycling and reduce waste going to landfills.

Council has heard your feedback about the new glass bins. We have a comprehensive Frequently Asked Questions section on our website which answers most of your questions.

This can be viewed at goldenplains.vic.gov.au/resident/waste-management/changes-kerbside-recycling-collection.

The updated waste collection schedule is designed to be the most cost-effective option for the community when balancing out the cost of travel and disposal of general waste and recyclables.

We thank you for your help in reducing what goes into our landfills, providing a more sustainable future for generations to come.

Cr Sarah Hayden
Mayor

HAVE YOU HEARD ABOUT COUNCIL'S E-NEWSLETTERS?

Council's e-newsletters are an excellent way to keep informed on all the latest Council initiatives, news and events.

Engage

Council's Engage e-newsletter is for community members who are interested in participating in community engagement activities.

Signing up helps keep you informed about relevant opportunities to contribute to Council's decision-making processes.

eGazette

Council's eGazette provides residents with additional news from Council in between editions of the Gazette.

It's a great way to stay up to date with Council initiatives while you wait for your next copy of the Gazette to arrive.

Business News

Business News is published by Council's Economic Development team and keeps local businesses informed and connected. This insightful publication provides valuable updates on council initiatives, funding opportunities, local events, and business-related news affecting the Golden Plains region.

To find out more and subscribe to Council's e-newsletters, visit goldenplains.vic.gov.au/publications.

I LOVE BANNOCKBURN

» We welcome Bannockburn's own gnarly comic, Marleise Betts.

There's something about Banno,
That's got me loving life,
Knowing there's police,
fire and ambulance, if I get in any strife.

A handful of childcare centres,
A couple of different schools,
And a swish new waterpark,
To keep me feeling cool.

I can get my fish and chips,
From Ray's on a balmy night,
And miles of tracks through bushland,
Where I can ride my bike.
If I need to fix something,
I can always nick down to Muddy's,
And the mechanics here,
Will keep my motors running.

If I want to get out on the town,
Then it has to be The Railway,
I'll get some Fresh Hair before I go,
Enjoy a meal, then watch a band play.
I can try my luck at fishing,
Or play a round of golf,
Take the kids to the Lions Park,
Then the bakery for a scroll.

I wake up in the morning,
To the sounds of many birds,
Then I get my first coffee of the day,
At the Early Bird.
There are many reasons why,
The population is growing,
Convenience meets rural life,
Our townsfolk are now knowing

A favourite place to go,
Is the monthly Farmer's Market,
I can fill the car with homemade goods,

And there's plenty of places to park it.

I can even get a nice drop,
At the local vineyard,
Then there are a few churches to choose from,
In case I oops and sin hard.

I can spend a lazy day,
Down by old Bruce Creek,
Don some lycra and hit the gym,
If it's fitness that I seek.
Then, when my bones get weary,
And I need a bit more rest,
I'll get Estia on the phone,
And reserve myself a bed.
Oh, there's everything I need,
Within our beautiful town,
But most of all, I love the folk,
Who turn my frowns around.



By Marley Betts

Marley is a local Bannockburn resident who may hate the Woolies carpark, but she really does love her town! As well as writing poetry and drawing comics, Marley writes contemporary fiction novels. You can find more of her words and drawings, plus links to all of her books, on her website: www.marleybetts.com

Banno Life



THE TOMATO TROLL

» Mitchell Harris had spent twenty years perfecting his tomato garden in the front yard of his inner suburban home in Geelong city.

His prize-winning Grosse Lisse and Black Russians were the talk of the local farmer's markets – not that he particularly enjoyed the attention, mind you. He simply took satisfaction in doing something right, something that required patience and dedication, two qualities sorely lacking in today's youngsters, as he frequently reminded anyone within cooee.

Every morning, before the summer heat kicked in, the old man would position his battered canvas deck chair under the shade of his bull nose veranda, pour himself a cup of Tetley's from Margaret's favourite china tea service and unfold the Geelong Advertiser onto his lap to catch up on local events. The position was perfect for surveying both his garden and the footpath where local kids would pass on their way to the primary school.

The tea ritual was as important to Mitchell as his beloved tomatoes. He and Margaret used to sit under the veranda and share a cup of tea and just chat about things. Sometimes they would just sit in companionable silence and just watch the world go by. But then Margaret had gone to the doctor one day. Women's troubles she had said. Nothing to worry about. He had been on his own now for the last ten years. But he never missed on sitting under the veranda and sipping his cup of Tetley's. Sometimes he would catch himself about to say something. It was like

she was still there in a way.

His constant war with the passing primary school kids had begun some years before when tomatoes had begun to disappear from the vines every morning and afternoon. Mitchell had quickly laid the blame on the schoolchildren and had been on sentry duty ever since. His hostile attitude toward them had earned him various nicknames among the local kids – "Cranky Garden Bloke," "Mad Mitch," and his personal least favourite, "The Tomato Troll."

It was during a warm January morning when he first noticed the girl. Unlike the others who hurried past his yard, she would stop and study his garden with an intensity



that put him on edge. She couldn't have been more than eight or nine, with unruly red hair barely contained in two messy plaits, wearing a neat school uniform and always carrying an enormous backpack almost as big as herself. "Oi! What're you gawking at?" he barked one morning, causing her to jump slightly. But instead of scarpering like the others, she took a tentative step closer to his fence. "Your tomatoes are different colours," she said, her voice steady despite his harsh tone. "How come

they're not all red like the ones at Woolies?"

Mitchell shifted in his chair, the canvas creaking under him, caught off guard by the genuine curiosity in her question. "Because not all tommies are meant to be red," he grumbled. "Nature's got more variety than your local supermarket would have you believe."

The next morning, as he limped down the path to retrieve the morning's copy of the Addie, he found a small wooden stake near his prized Purple Cosmics. Attached was a carefully hand-drawn picture of the tomato with "COSMIC TOMATOES - FAIR DINKUM PURPLE!" written in wobbly letters. Mitchell stared at it for a long moment before leaving it where it stood.

The stakes began appearing regularly after that, each one featured a different tomato variety from his garden, complete with colour drawings and fascinating, if not entirely accurate, facts. "Green Zebras are stripy like a green and gold footy jersey!" read one. "Black Russians came from Bondi Beach," declared another, causing Mitchell to snort despite himself.

He started leaving corrections to her signs: a note about Green Zebras actually being bred in California, not at the MCG; a gentle reminder that Black Russians came from Russia, not from the local pub. Each correction would disappear, only to be replaced by a new stake with updated information.

One morning, he found her kneeling by his fence, carefully placing a new stake. "You can't be here," he said, but his voice lacked its usual sting. She looked up, unafraid. "I'm Sarah,"

she said, as if that explained



Tomato facts

everything. "Mum says I'm not supposed to talk to strangers, but you're not really a stranger anymore because you grow the best tommies in Geelong." She paused thoughtfully. "Even if you are a bit of a grump about it."

Mitchell tried to maintain his scowl but felt it melting faster than an ice block in December. "That stake's in the wrong spot," he said instead. "Purple Cosmic needs more support than that, especially when a northerly comes through."

Sarah's face lit up at his words, and she pulled out her notebook. "Can you show me the right way? I'm keeping a garden journal, but most of my information comes from the library, and their books are really old. They don't even mention how to grow them in this heat!"

Before he quite knew what was happening, Mitchell found himself giving a lesson on growing tomatoes. Sarah proved to be an attentive student, scribbling notes furiously and asking thoughtful questions about water conservation and protecting plants from the scorching sun.

As weeks passed, their morning sessions became routine. Sarah

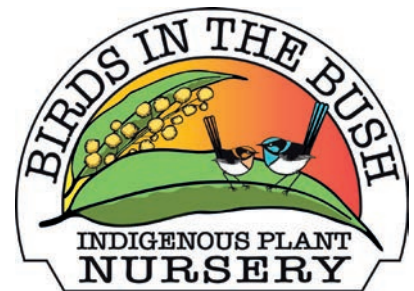
would arrive early before school, armed with questions and her ever-present notebook. Mitchell found himself looking forward to their discussions, even setting aside particularly interesting specimens to show her, along with tips about using shade cloth and mulch to combat the summer heat.

The other neighbourhood kids, noticing that the fearsome Tomato Troll had been seemingly tamed, grew bolder. But instead of chasing them away, Mitchell was surprised to find himself fielding questions about different varieties and growing techniques, with Sarah proudly acting as his assistant, teaching the other kids about bush tucker plants she'd learned about in school.

Sarah still stops by every morning, though now she has her own small tomato patch in her backyard, complete with a rainwater tank and drip irrigation system Mitchell helped her set up. He supervises her progress with all the exacting standards he's known for, but these days, his neighbours have been noticing something different about the "Cranky Garden Bloke": he seems to scowl a lot less, especially since he got a surprise visit from Sarah's Granma one day. Apparently, her curiosity got the better of her after seeing Sarah's tomato patch and she decided to come see what all the fuss was about for herself.

Anyway, she quite enjoyed a cup of Tetley's from Mitchell's prized tea pot and had a nice chat with him relaxing on his veranda. Turns out they had a fair bit in common – her being a widow and all.

By Gordon Vanbeck



Birds in the Bush Indigenous Plant Nursery

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Authorised by M. Shield, The Greens,
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PLANTATIONS OF THE FUTURE

» Do you yearn for a sensible and impartial world where choices are made for the good of all life on the planet and not just for the benefit of a few very rich and egoistic Homo sapiens? I certainly do.

I also yearn for good news stories about the environment and information about how we can move forward step by step in a way that supports all life in the future.

I'm excited about the possibility of humans finding a connection once again with nature, in a supportive, noncompetitive relationship, in both rural and urban Australian environments.

In light of these musings, here is an abridged version of an article soon to be published in the Victorian Landcare magazine (edition 89).

Plant and connect

Plantations on farms have the potential to be much more than windbreaks and shelter belts. They can provide a significant portion of a rural family's diversified income while being part of a vegetation network that sustains local biodiversity. They can also be places where farmers connect with wildlife as they maintain and harvest diverse crops of marketable products.

On a national scale, if we are to protect and restore our biodiversity assets and sequester substantial volumes of carbon, future farm biodiversity plantations will need to be much wider (50m+) with native vegetation occupying as much as 30% of rural properties. Researchers have shown that this

can be achieved without the loss of productivity.

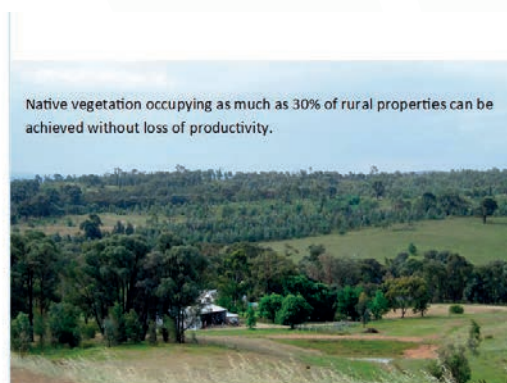
These wider plantations are important conservation measures because they suit the spiral foraging patterns of birdlife. They also provide more protected farm shelter, critical to the survival of many of Australia's iconic wildlife that are presently facing extinction.

This vision offers a win-win, where landowners provide for their own needs through improved shelter and a variety of marketable products. This shift in rural landscape strategic planting also ensures the recovery of the flora and fauna that sustain the health and lifestyles of the broader community.

'Biodiversity influences the health, wealth and resilience of the land. It is not something that is found only in patches of native vegetation, it is all around us.'

David Salt et al., 2004

By Stephen Murphy, Author, Ecologist. Nurseryman, Landcarer.



'RECREATING the COUNTRY'
Ten key principles for designing sustainable landscapes **Second edition Updated & expanded**



GOLDEN PLAINS ARTS TRAIL 12-13 APRIL 2025

Enter the creative world of painters, sculptors, musicians, printers, photographers and more from across the area. Explore the rich cultural and historic areas of Golden Plains Shire.

Info: gpartsinc.com.au

The trail aims to give the public access to the artists. Our members first opened their studio doors in 2009 and we have since enjoyed sharing our stories and creations with you.

Driving along the north and South parts of the trail you will enjoy rolling hills, bushland, and open cropping and grazing land on the plains.

As you travel you will find 21 venues, housing 54 Artists. Many have their own studios and other share venues. At each you will be able to view original artworks, talk directly with the artists about their work and their sources of inspiration. This is a unique opportunity that is rarely available in a gallery.



MEDICAL HUB SOON TO COMMENCE BUILD

» Bannockburn Surgery is pleased to announce their upcoming development.

We will soon commence work on our purpose-built facility to provide accessible and comprehensive healthcare services to the growing population of Bannockburn and surrounds.

The medical hub will allow for further expansion of services and feature modern facilities designed to streamline patient care to meet the diverse healthcare needs of the community. In addition to providing healthcare services, the development has tenancies available for medical and allied health professionals and a dedicated café.

Convenience is a top priority for the new development. To ensure

easy access for all visitors, the development will include ample parking spaces including disability access and on-site pathology.

Bannockburn Surgery is excited to embark on this new chapter and looks forward to welcoming patients, practitioners, and visitors to this modern new facility. Stay tuned for more updates as the development progresses!

For more information on tenancy opportunities, please contact the Practice Manager, Catherine directly on (03) 5281 1481.

16 High Street Bannockburn
Tel: 03 5281 1481
www.bannockburnsurgery.com.au.

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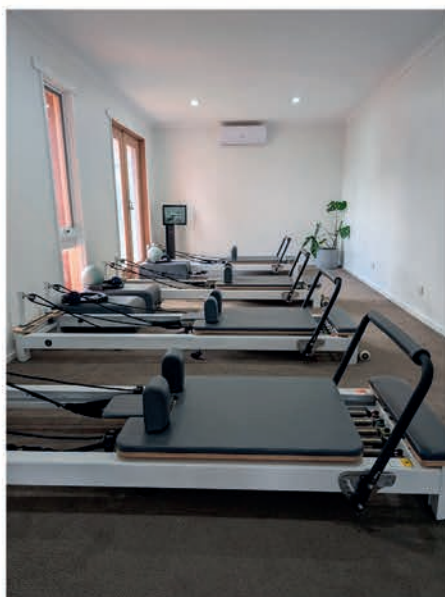
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HEALTH & CLIMATE

Join us for a panel discussion with experts in the Health and Climate space as we ask the question: how can we stay healthy as the climate changes? (While still fighting to prevent further climate change of course!)

Free event, refreshments provided

25th March 2025
6.30 PM - 8.30 PM

Happy Spaces
4-6 Gilbert St, Torquay



Dr Sarah Mansfield
Member for Western Victoria

BOOK ONLINE: sarahmansfield.org.au/event/community-health-climate-forum

SARAH MANSFIELD MP



DANCING QUEEN

Fridays 9pm - 12am
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MORE CARE FOR THE MOORABOOL AND BARWON RIVERS

» Corangamite Catchment Management Authority (CMA) has been awarded a \$1.67 million grant for addressing barriers to fish passage on the lower Barwon and Moorabool rivers.

The funds will be used to plan and construct fishways to allow fish to move freely up and down the rivers to feed and breed, and to move past obstacles such as weirs and artificial rock pools.

The funds have been granted as part of the Australian Government's Urban Rivers and Catchment Program, as announced by the Hon Minister Plibersek, Minister for the Environment and Water on 6 December.

The Program delivers on the Australian Government's commitment to restore the health of urban, outer urban/peri-urban and regional centre waterways for native plants and animals, and local communities.

On the Moorabool River, the funds will support planning and construction of a fishway at Batesford Weir, Batesford.

On the Barwon River, the funds will support planning, design and construction of fishways at Buckley Falls and a downstream rock pool, as well as planning and design of a fishway at the nearby Baum's Weir.

Corangamite CMA CEO Dr Amber Clarke said, "This is a fantastic investment by the Australian Government that will improve connectivity of these vital urban waterways and allow native fish



to move and thrive, including the threatened migratory Australian Grayling."

The projects are due to be completed by the end of February 2028 and will involve partnership with Wadawurrung Traditional Owners, community groups, local government, Heritage Victoria and other Victorian Government

authorities.

This project is funded by the Australian Government's Natural Heritage Trust under the Urban Rivers and Catchments Program. Source CCMA. ccma.vic.gov.au

Bannockburn Residents will be appreciative of the importance of water and healthy river to support our ecology, lifestyles and food and wine production. Rivers really are our lifeblood, yet they are too often neglected and abused.

People for a Living Moorabool (PALM) was formed in 2008 to unite the local community, CCMA, and politicians in making a much greater effort to improve its sad position as Victoria's most flow stressed river. See PALM's website at mooraboolriver.org for information on several important projects

PALM's lobbying with the authorities responsible for the health of the river and for the water releases as "Environmental flows" and "Cultural water" has literally been a lifesaver for the river and its wildlife. Traditional Owner groups such as WTOAC (Wadawurrung Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation) have also become empowered and are now having more say in water management on their land. Stay tuned for part 2 - which will be featured in our next edition (1 June)

By Stuart McCallum on behalf of PALM



RAMSAR WEEK 2025

» Bookings are now open for Corangamite Catchment Management Authority's (CMA) second annual Ramsar Week – a jam-packed week of fun, informative, free events from 17-21 March 2025 that celebrate the internationally significant Ramsar Wetland sites on our doorstep.

Ramsar Week 2025 raises awareness of the importance and value of Ramsar listed wetlands for communities of the Corangamite CMA region. Ramsar wetlands are those included on the List of Wetlands of International Importance developed under the Ramsar Convention. Wetlands achieve Ramsar status through their rarity and ability to support biological diversity. Many of our wetlands provide significant habitat for internationally migratory birds, as well as critically endangered locals such as the Orange Bellied Parrot.

Events include:

- Wetlands walk with Wadawurrung Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation at Lake Connewarre, Breakwater Swamp, and Balyang Sanctuary
- Corangamite water skink surveying with Candice Parker from Greening Australia at the Western District Lakes
- Restoration Revamp – a private property tour on Lake Corangamite with Greening Australia
- Environmental water at Reedy

Lake, led by Corangamite CMA's Jake van Dam

- Lake Bookar Birding Tour
- Mud Islands clean-up day
- Canoe tours of Swan Bay with a visit to the Marine and Freshwater Discovery Centre

The two Ramsar listed sites in our region are the Port Phillip Bay (Western Shoreline) and Bellarine Peninsula site that covers approximately 22,694 hectares near Geelong, and the Western District Lakes site covering approximately 32,898 hectares around Camperdown.

Sharing knowledge about the significance of these ecosystems fosters respect, understanding and ultimately the protection of the wetlands and their inhabitants.

For bookings and more information visit: ccma.vic.gov.au/ramsar-week/

See the CCMA Website for some wonderful excursion opportunities.



COMMUNITY DIRECTORY



Come and Try Underwater Hockey

www.geelongunderwaterhockey.org.au

E: geelonguwhockey@gmail.com

If you enjoy water play and would like to try a fun, very different, very wet sport, come along to the Geelong Grammar School's Handbury Centre pool any Wednesday night from 5:45 to 7:30 pm

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For more info, visit our

Website, email us or

Search "Underwater
Hockey"



Tai Chi

@

Bannockburn

Men's Shed

Wed 9.30am - 10.30am

and

Winchelsea

Community House

Fri 9am - 10am

Ph. Desma 0414 944 926

St John's Op Shop Bannockburn

is now at

11 Byron Street

Bannockburn

Opening Hours:

Tues-Fri: 10am-4pm

Saturday: 10am - 1pm



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AND WE HAVE FUN
JOIN US**

Bannockburn & District Lions Club

We are on the lookout for new members to join our group and for local community projects to support.

We are setting up meet and greets with locals - free coffee and cake provided! Dates and times based on interest.

**If you want to know more or join us for a catch up, please contact us at
bannockburn.vic@lions.org.au**

COMMUNITY FUN PAGE



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Mondays and Fridays. 10:00 to 11:30am

\$3.00 per day (first session is free)

For further information, call Phil: 0409 236 420

BANNO PETS & POOCHES



Knox and Roxie going for a walk in the reserve area. A great area to walk your dog!

By Linda.



Io looking out for a frog! By Stu.



Lil Guy doing what he does best, relaxing.

By Gray.



Roxie with her 'puppy' dog eyes, saying 'mama, I am still hungry!'

By Julia.

Want to see your pet featured in our next edition?

Share a snapshot of your beloved pet and include a brief caption along with your name. Email us at contact@bannockburnnews.com.au. If space allows, we would love to showcase your wonderful pet!

GUEST SPEAKER:

ALISON POULIOT

THE DARK WEB: A FORAY IN THE FUNGAL UNDERGROUND



Alison Pouliot - The Dark Web: A Foray in the Fungal Underground.

<https://events.humanitix.com/alison-pouliot-the-dark-web-a-foray-in-the-fungal-underground/tickets?hxchl=amk-eml-hfn&hxref=1-0-0>



Thu, 27 Mar, 6pm - 8pm AEDT
[Add to calendar](#)



Batesford Hotel, Moorabool Room,
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DARREN BULLER

LIBERAL FOR CORIO

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for a chat or to raise any issues.

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 DarrenBuller.com.au



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BANNOCKBURN
NEWS



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Bannockburn News acknowledges the Wadawurrung People as the Original Owners of the lands on which our services operate. We pay respect to Elders past, present and emerging. We acknowledge and celebrate First Nations Peoples of this land as the custodians of learning, literacy, knowledge and story.