



ISSUE NO. 91 December 2017

FREE

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BRIDGE CONNECTION COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER



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readers!*

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made by local
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Kevin Foley and
David Watt.
More details
inside on pages 2&4*



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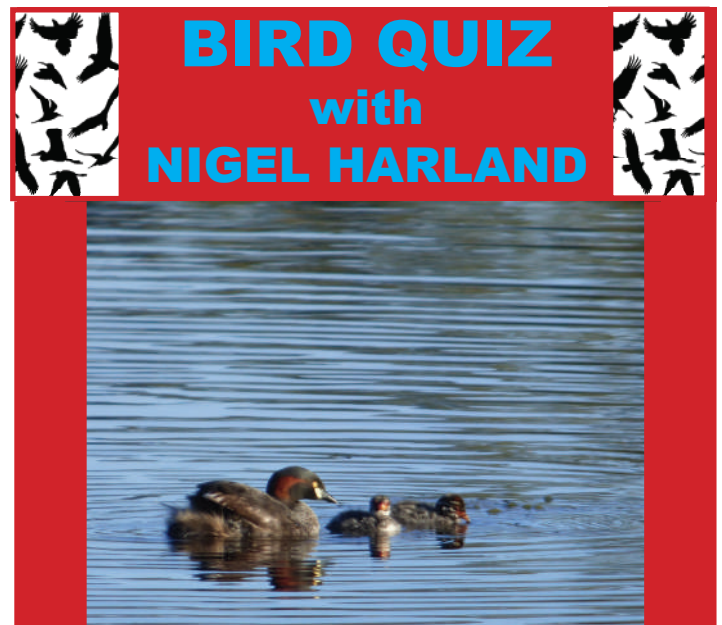
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Gloria in Excelsis!



This magnificent stained glass window was commissioned from Kevin Foley and David Watt by Sacred Heart College, Geelong. Kevin and David are celebrated Mia Mia artists well known to most locals. The window is 4 meters in diameter. On page 4 is a photograph of Kevin and David installing their masterpiece at the school.



Last month's little bird was a yellow-faced honey-eater which looks as though it had just had a bath. There was no winner this time. It is a migrant to our area -arriving in July to October and leaving for the north in April- May.

This month's bird is not a duck. It is found on most big dams in the area. When the chicks hatch, they hop on a parent's back and the parent dives to feed with the offspring firmly under their wings. You will almost never see them on dry land. Good luck! (Nigel is away - Eds)

Contact us on with your guess about which bird this is above and **WIN a \$20 book voucher** from Aesop's Attic bookshop, Kyneton. Send answers to bridgeconnection.editor@gmail.com or phone or text to: 0407 116 899

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Love for the land:

The inspiration behind the work of Kevin Foley by Tahlia Campbell

"For months we were driving through all of those burnt trees...the orange, and the burnt coal." Kevin Foley's artwork featured in Redesdale's 7th Art Show, included his print "Black Trees - Barfold", a landscape which depicts the damage done by the Black Saturday bushfires in 2009.

Living near Mia Mia, Kevin is surrounded by rich scenery from which he takes his inspiration for his landscapes. His prints and etchings are easily recognised by his recurring subject matter of black and white animals, including sheep, cows, magpies, and his border collie, Scout. These monochromatic subjects are often juxtaposed against a coloured background, evoking the feeling of rural Victoria with its mustard-yellow grass and dusky blue-grey skies. See left and below.



Above: This ironwork "Message Tree" is one of Kevin's latest works. A limited edition of 15 have been produced (and are available for purchase). It is 1.6 meters high and 1.2 meters wide. Enquiries: info@kevinfoley.com.au

Below: David and Kevin installing the window at Sacred Heart College, Geelong

Below left: Kevin in his Studio at Mia Mia.



Each of Kevin's works strike a familiar chord with locals and anyone who loves the country, but every piece is specific to a place or memory that is important to Kevin. Looking through his collection, it's easy to imagine what a day in his life would look like just from the sheer amount of character and fondness he puts into every etching.

"It's always the landscapes, it's a huge thing for me and I just love it. This area has so much to offer. Living in this area, it's gorgeous."

Kevin's work has been displayed all over Victoria and beyond, in Sydney, Melbourne, Kyneton, Castlemaine, and Queensland, but his pieces will always be reflective of the Redesdale-Mia Mia district. Through his artwork, he brings the unique aesthetics of our area to the rest of Australia, and we look forward to seeing what he will do in the future.

Editorial

A big thank you to all our regular contributors. Sending articles in by the deadline is a pressure and we really appreciate all the great contributions. We love this month's "Little Treasures" article about prisoners of war who stayed on Coliban Estate during the war. (See page 9).

We are all excited by the prospect of the outdoor movie on the Redesdale reserve on Jan 4th. It was great last year. (See page 20). Save the date - January 27th - in your diary now. The communities of Mia Mia and Redesdale will be getting together to celebrate a very special date - the 150th anniversary of our wonderful bridge. See page 3 for details of the event which starts at the Redesdale Hall at 11 am.

Churchgoers please note the change of service times over the Christmas period. (Page 7).

Congratulations to the winners of the Pet Pal and Bridge Abroad competitions! (See page 22). Please keep sending your entries in for next year.

This is the last issue of Bridge Connection until the March edition next year - so we wish you all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. Stay safe.



Regina Bennett



Kathy Hall

Co-Editors

Kathy Hall

Regina Bennett

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DEADLINE
20th of each month

BRIDGE CONNECTION COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER

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Size	Height x Width	Price per issue	10 Editions
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For other editorial enquiries, please phone **0407 116 899**

Bridge Connection Distribution

800 Copies printed and distributed to Redesdale Mia Mia Region, including Barfold, Baynton, Derrinal, Elphinstone, Glenhope, Kyneton, Langley, Metcalf, Sidonia and Sutton Grange

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THE MUNRO LETTERS

Episode 10

We continue the 1842 letter from David Munro to brother Alex in Scotland.

After travelling about 20 miles we came upon the Major's track again, its direction coinciding exactly with the direction of his route on the map. Before us we had some tolerably high hills which we knew to be the hills that run parallel to the Loddon, but at some distance from it. As we approached the base of these the forest became more open and grassy; there were plenty of watercourses but they were unfortunately dry, and it was past midday when we at last found a very deep hole in which there was a couple of bucketfuls of liquid mud. A day later and it most certainly would have been dry. Our four horses actually drank this dry, and then came our turn. We scraped a hole in the gravel, through which the water filtered and in this way obtained it tolerably clean but it was so strongly impregnated with iron that its taste was intensely chalybeate and the tea we made with it struck a colour with which I am sure I could have written you a letter.



image: <https://australianfoodtimeline.com.au/gold-rush/>

Notwithstanding all this I am certain I never in the course of my life before received greater pleasure from liquid of any sort, nor do I think any one excepting a beer-drinking German student ever imbibed so much fluid in the same period of time. I shall ever hereafter look upon a dirty puddle with much greater respect than I had for it before.

Refreshing ourselves and giving the horses a rest, we proceeded and soon found ourselves at the base of the mountain for which we had been steering. It was of granite and of a bold and rugged character. The crystals of the granite in some places were as large as dice shewing its component minerals very distinctly. It is of a pale rose colour, but decomposes very much, the feldspar apparently efflorescing and crumbling away in a white powder. Leaving the horses near the bottom we ascended a considerable height and climbing on to the summit of an enormous boulder we had an extensive view; a hill opposite us to the southward appeared like the one we stood on to be granite of very irregular surface shewing itself in enormous castellated masses and pyramids; to the north were several ranges of hills covered with wood but we were not high enough to see the features of the country distinctly

in that direction; in one direction we had a view of the plains through which the Loddon flows. Rejoining our horses we steered towards the northeast when it appeared to us that the hills were traversed by a valley. The grass on the granite soil here was very poor and the country seemed too dry for vegetation of any sort. At some seasons it was evidently deluged with water for we saw beds of streams in which the banks attested the large volumes of water which at times they imperfectly retained, although now it was dry and dusty.

Now I think when you read the account of the country which I am giving you and compare it with the description of the same district in Mitchell's expeditions, you can hardly fail to come to the conclusion that either he or I have misrepresented facts. There you read of beautiful turf, of earthly paradises, of abundant rivulets of flowing water, while I tell you that I saw an inferior country, badly grassed, and worse provided with water.



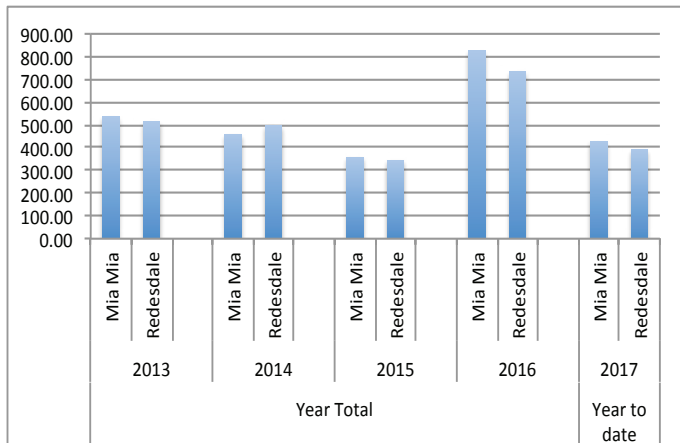
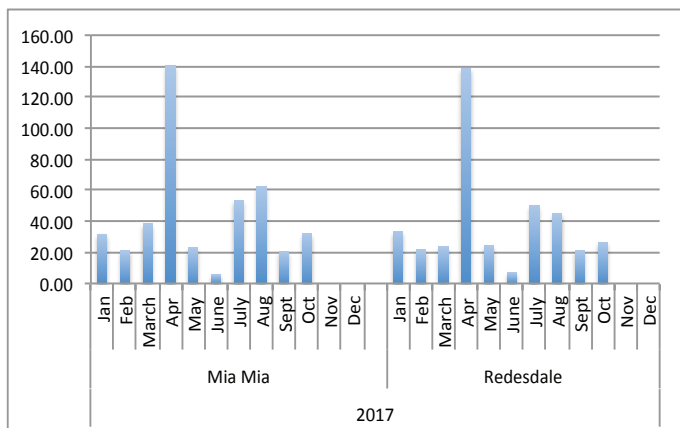
Meeting of Major Mitchell and Edward Henty, Portland Bay, 1836. Lithograph by J. MacFarlane for the Education Department of Victoria. Glenelg Shire Council Cultural Collection.

But it is, notwithstanding, possible that both of us describe exactly what we saw or very nearly so. I believe it myself firmly on the part of Major Mitchell, that with the exception of a little overcolouring excusable, nay even unavoidable in the enthusiasm of discovery, he represented the country he traversed much as it appeared to him. But while I exonerate him from the imputation of faults of commission, I cannot do the same with respect to faults of omission. You will observe that Major Mitchell traversed the country in the rainy season, when the ground was saturated with moisture, and I have little doubt that at that time the grass was greener than when I was there, and that there were beautiful rivulets of water where I found only deep dry furrows in the soil. But Major Mitchell is an old bushman and must have known that the winter condition of the country was very different from what it would be in the summer, and when he wrote his book ought to have mentioned this, particularly for the benefit of the people in England who cannot be supposed to have an accurate knowledge of the vicissitudes of the climate in Australia.

Next time: Now as far as my memory serves me...

RAINFALL

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Thank you to Mary Bennett for the Mia Mia readings.



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UNITING CHURCH: Special Christmas service on Dec 17th at 7 pm at Sutton Grange. There will be no service on the 4th Sunday in December at Sutton Grange. All other services remain the same.

In January there are only two services for the month. The first is on Jan 7th at Barfold at 10 am, normal morning tea. The second is on Jan 28th at Sutton Grange at 10 am, normal morning tea.

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Term 4

It has been an exciting term down at the school. We have seen some great work in maths and english with students achieving excellent results in spelling, number and their "Big Writes".

We have had a focus on our Indonesian and Asian culture this term with 2 fantastic days including students being involved in a performance at the Taradale Hall with our other cluster schools (and nasi goreng... yum!)

We also have completed our quilt for the Bridge 150 years celebration in January.

Have a great Christmas!

Christine, Bernadette, Joe and Steph.



Phone - 5425 3155; **Principal - Joe Sebire**
Email - redesdale.mia.mia.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au

Little Treasures

This month we bring you our third story about objects that are dear to our readers. We would love to hear from any of our readers about any inanimate object in your life that means a lot to you and that you really treasure. And send us a picture too.

Please send your contributions (about 500 words) to bridgeconnection.editor@gmail.com. We look forward to hearing from you.

Prisoners of War from Jill James

One of our favorite things is a ship in a bottle which holds pride of place on our mantelpiece. This intricate four-masted barque was made by the Italian prisoners of war who were billeted on Coliban Estate during World War 2. It is in a small sixteen cm bottle and is a treasured reminder of rural life nearly eighty years ago, when those working the land rushed to join up, leaving the farm work force critically reduced.

Following the axis defeat in Nth Africa many Italian service men were taken prisoner, with a large number being held in camps in India. The Australian Government asked for 50,000 of these prisoners, to be sent to Australia where the rural work force had been catastrophically depleted by the call to arms. Unfortunately because of shipping shortages, only 14,000 were finally transported. At a time when farming was significantly dependent on manpower. Coliban Estate was allocated two workers, Andrea and Luigi. Other places in the district including Summer Hill, Redesdale were also fortunate to obtain similar essential help.



Officers and those considered to have fascist loyalties were kept in camps, but those deemed trustworthy were sent out to assist on farms. Because many had come off farms in Italy they were of significant value to Australian agricultural needs at the time. There were no accompanying guards, the only supervision from the visiting government staff who made the rounds on a weekly basis, when they provided a canteen service for the prisoners. Here the men could buy cigarettes, sweets etc from the fifteen pence they received per day. Escape (where to?) did not seem to be a driving force and for relaxation Andrea and Luigi would walk up the river to meet with their countrymen living at Summer Hill.

Language was a major problem but my mother in law was the most effective communicator drawing on her memories of school Latin plus her undoubted acting skills. Over time both the Italians and their employers devised a communication system which seemed to work. As a result a word now part of our vocabulary is "chippare" meaning to chip. One of the tasks that Andrea and Luigi was given was to chip around the buildings thus creating a firebreak. So when the inevitable devastating fires came through in February 1944 the houses and farm sheds were all saved. The fact that there was a cypress hedge around the house and a haystack close by shows just how effective a chippare programme can be.

After the fires, when over a million acres were burnt in Victoria, the work load became even more demanding, in particular fencing and feeding out.

Continued on Page 11

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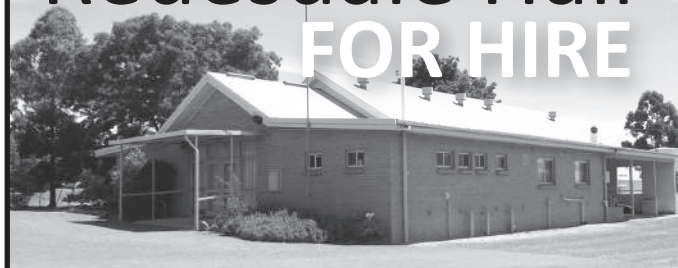
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Steph Ryan MP

Member for Euroa

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Kangaroo numbers are out of control on local roads

The Nationals Member for Northern Victoria Luke O'Sullivan has said kangaroo numbers are out of control on Victoria's roads, citing a large number of dead kangaroos on most country roads in Victoria.

"Just this week alone driving on the Hume Freeway between Seymour and Warrnambool, which is 59 km, I saw 38 dead animals on or beside the Hume Freeway. 33 of those were dead kangaroos," Mr O'Sullivan said.

"This is a huge amount of kangaroos when you consider the length of that stretch of road.

"The frightening thing is that it's not unusual to see that many kangaroos on the side of the road in recent times, as kangaroo numbers continue to increase." The most recent data available from VicRoads shows that the number of motorists who suffered injuries as a result of collisions with animals reached a 10-year high of 128 in 2015.

"I believe kangaroo numbers have increased significantly since then.

"Encountering a kangaroo on the road is a danger to drivers in ordinary circumstances, but when drivers have to deal with kangaroos in this kind of volume it becomes a huge hazard.

"I myself have had several near misses and I know firsthand how dangerous it is to swerve to miss a kangaroo.

New portfolio elevates country Victoria

From Peter Walsh MP, Leader of the Nationals

Country Victoria is at the heart of the Liberal Nationals plan to better manage our population and grow our whole state – not just Melbourne.

The Liberal Nationals strongly believe a whole-of-government approach is integral to delivering the best outcome for rural and regional Victoria and our new Shadow Minister for Decentralisation portfolio is key to delivering for those communities.

As Shadow Minister for Decentralisation, I will work closely with Liberal Party Leader Matthew Guy, in his role of Shadow Minister for Population, to develop a population policy for Victoria which includes maximum benefit and opportunity for regional communities.

More than 90 per cent of the people who move to our state each year move to Melbourne, but the Andrews Labor Government has no plan to manage this growth and regional Victoria is missing out as a direct result of Labor's incompetence.

Under Labor, country roads have been left to crumble, and skyrocketing energy costs and other cost of living pressures are making it harder to do business and causing job losses across regional Victoria.

Victorians will have a clear choice at the next election. A choice between the Liberal Nationals team that is focused and united on the issues that matter like jobs, cost of living and regional connectivity, or a Labor administration preoccupied with factional fights and robbing the taxpayer.

CFA volunteers gagged in new low from Labor

From Steph Ryan, Nationals MP for Euroa

Funding for CFA's main communication tool to volunteers, Fire Wise will be reinstated under a Liberal Nationals Government, Member for Euroa and Deputy Leader of The Nationals Steph Ryan said today.

Funding for the publication which began in 1947 as The Fireman was cut last week in yet another move by the Andrews Labor Government to gag CFA volunteers.

Ms Ryan said the cut was announced just one week after the publication reported on the need for the Royal Commission into Victoria's fire services, announced by The Nationals and Liberals.

"Fire Wise is used by Volunteer Fire Brigades Victoria (VFBV), the CFA Chief, EMV Commissioner Craig Lapsley and local volunteers to communicate messages on issues which affect volunteers," Ms Ryan said.

"This includes information on service delivery, volunteer awards and coming fire services events and I fear that if the publication is reduced to an online presence, it will miss hundreds of volunteers across our region who rely on the hard copy.

"Daniel Andrews is trying to bully volunteers into submission by denying them an independent source of information.

"If elected next year we will restore funding for this long running publication, so it can continue to provide information to volunteers." Shadow Emergency Services Minister Brad Battin said it was clear Daniel Andrews would continue to silence and disrespect volunteers as he works to destroy the CFA.

"Just last week Fire Wise was reporting on the need for a Royal Commission into Victoria's fire services, and then by coincidence Daniel Andrews announces he's cut their funding- a new low even for Labor.

"Only the Liberals and Nationals will ensure all fire fighters including volunteers have the resources to have their voices heard," Mr Battin said.

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Little Treasures continued:

One of the main jobs for the POW's was to cut out cubic metres of silage from the pit for the next days feed run. This they chose to do at night using lights from the utility to save time. Their role was absolutely vital in the days and months following the fires. It was with some sadness on both sides when the war was over and the POWs were returned home. In fact many did come back to Australia, which was seen as a land of opportunity compared to post war Italy.

The ship in the bottle left to the family by Andrea and Luigi is a wonderful reminder of a strange and threatening time. In the wider world a horrendous war was raging and at home, lives and livelihoods were threatened by possibly the worst fire which has occurred in this district, at a time when there were no resources in terms of machinery or manpower with which to respond.

Thanks for everything Luigi and Andrea.



Federal Member for Bendigo

LISA CHESTERS MP

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Leading Renewable Energy Economy

Climate change is an issue that Central Victorians care deeply about. From farmers to small business owners, real action on climate change is needed and needed now. Climate change is driving the most profound restructuring of the world and local economies this century – the transition from fossil fuel based energy to renewable energy. The transition is happening now and it is accelerating. With the right policies the renewable energy sector provides immense opportunities: it will drive jobs creation, drive manufacturing investment and put downward pressure on power prices for families and small businesses. That's why Federal Labor's energy and climate change policy will:

- Ensure that at least 50% of the nation's electricity is sourced from renewable energy by 2030;
- Expand the investment mandate of the Clean Energy Finance Corporation;
- Provide \$206.6m to ARENA to support a specific Concentrated Solar Thermal funding round;
- Establish a Community Power Network and Regional Hubs at a cost of \$98.7m over four years; and
- Ensure the Commonwealth Government leads by example as a direct purchaser of renewable energy.

The Liberal Government has done everything in its power to try and destroy Australia's share in one of the world's fastest growing industries, Renewable Energy. In the last two years more than 2 million renewable energy jobs were added to the global economy, but over the same period 2,900 jobs were lost in Australia including many in Central Victoria.

A strong renewable energy sector will be at the centre of Labor's response to the challenges of climate change. With the right policies the renewable energy sector also provides immense opportunities: it will drive jobs creation, drive manufacturing investment and put downward pressure on power prices for families and small businesses.

Lisa Chesters, Federal member for Bendigo

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Quote of the month:

Those people who think they know everything are a great annoyance to those of us who do.

Isaac Asimov

PLAN AND PREPARE

THE REASONS ARE BLACK AND WHITE

It's your responsibility to be fire ready this summer, so prepare your property, fire plan and emergency kit now.

When hot, dry, windy days are forecast, check Fire Danger Ratings in your district daily and monitor conditions via local radio, the VicEmergency website and app. **On high-risk fire days, leaving early, before a fire starts, is always the safest option.**

emergency.vic.gov.au

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Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,

Just a little bit of history from Old England.

I have just been doing some ancestry research for my neighbour, and I find that her great uncle – William Boardman, born 1841 – was indentured as an apprentice for four years to the Herald of the Morning in February 1858. You can see his name second from the top on the first attached document. (see opposite page - Eds)

This means that he was on that ship's fateful journey in 1859 when she deposited at the bottom of Hobson's Bay all the wrought ironwork that was eventually raised to make your lovely bridge.

William managed to make it back to England and, as you can see in the second document, the 1861 census finds him at home with his parents in Altrincham, Lancashire, (second from the bottom) with his occupation given as 'Sailor, Merchant service'.

I try to imagine the tales he brought home. Records show that for generation upon generation his family had not moved beyond a 15 mile radius, and then young William sails to the other side of the world and back, with tales of storms and fires and sinkings!

Ian Christmas, High Wycombe, Bucks, England HP14 4PQ

Letter to the Editor

To the Editors,

I have lived in the Mia Mia, Redsdale area since 1958.

I have never seen Redesdale and Mia Mia towns looking so bright and neat, with the grass mowed and trees planted and looked after. And with the Redesdale reserve in the centre of the town it looks a picture thanks to the committee that works so hard to improve the area.

You hear people in other areas complain about their councils not doing anything. I feel the City of Greater Bendigo council have been very supportive and helpful all the time. I am sure there will be many other projects the committees and the council will develop in the future.

A special thanks to all the people on the committees and the council that have worked so hard to make our towns pleasant to live in. It is a pleasure to drive into Redesdale and Mia Mia from Kyneton and Bendigo.

*Thank you.
Mary Bennett
Mia Mia*

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FARMERS' MARKETS

Woodend Community Farmers' Market
Sat Dec 2nd
Cnr High & Forest Streets, Woodend
0487 444 090 Sharon Kittson

Daylesford Farmer's Market
Sat Dec 2nd
Daylesford Primary School
03 5664 0096 Peter Arnold

Kyneton Farmers' Market
Sat Dec 9th
St Pauls Park, Piper Street, Kyneton
54 221 025 Veronica Manifold

Riddells Creek Farmers' Market
Sat Dec 16th
Riddells Creek Primary School, Riddells Creek
0408 254 626 Ali Bant

Lancefield & District Farmers' Market
Sat Dec 16th
Centre Plantation, High Street, Lancefield
0407 860 320 Meggs Hannes

Maldon Market
Sunday Dec 10th

Authentic, community based farmers' markets.
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Friendly dogs welcome on a leash.
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Above: William Boardman Indenture.
See letters to the editors, page 12.



Left: Golden perch

The Campaspe's summer lovin'

Christmas has come early for the Campaspe River, with a bumper summer recreation season expected on the back of a flow aimed at increasing native fish numbers. Before European occupation, there were 10 times as many native fish in the Campaspe and other Murray Darling Basin rivers as there are now.

River regulation, the construction of weirs and man-made lakes, and the introduction of pest species, have decimated native fish numbers.

"Without intervention, we expect the numbers of native fish to drop by another 50 per cent in the next 40 years," North Central Catchment Management Authority (CMA) Project Manager Darren White said.

"In this region, we saw a 93 per cent reduction in the numbers of silver perch, and a 74 per cent drop in golden perch between 1940 and 1990.

"We've even seen localised extinction of some native fish species."

For the past decade, the North Central CMA has been working at providing the right conditions in the Campaspe River to rebuild and restore native fish numbers," Mr White said.

"Since 2014, we have consistently recorded increased numbers of golden perch, Murray cod, Murray River rainbowfish and silver perch in the Campaspe as we manage flows to help the river recover from drought and floods.

"More native fish means more anglers, which means more recreation benefits for locals, and more tourism opportunities for their communities."

"The Campaspe River will be the place to be over summer, with this flow setting the river up for a year of great conditions, weather permitting."



Sunday 3rd December 2017

Women in Balance – A morning of yoga and meditation. Yoga with Kate Robinson - Meditation with Shelly Horkings \$50.00 includes two yoga sessions and one meditation session. Time: 9.30am to 12.30pm. Venue: Mimosa Glen Woolshed. Please note bookings close two weeks prior to event date. For all inquiries, please phone Sue on 0438 568 570

Saturday 16th December 2017

Sunrise Yoga in the peace of our Olive Grove with Sally Matbrick - Time: 5:45am start. Cost \$15 for yoga, \$10 for breakfast. Contact Julie on ph 03)5432 2291 or mob 0417 521 409 Venue Bridgeward Olive Grove 170 English's Rd Goornong

Heathcote Christmas Carols- Time: 7pm-10pm. More info phone 0408 332 235. Venue: Barrack Reserve Heathcote

Thursday 21st December 2017

Heathcote Community House Shared Dinner – Time: 6pm. Bring a Plate to Share get together, try something different, met new people. Please contact the Community House on 5431 0930 to register. "What's to Harvest in December" Venue: Heathcote Community House 55 Hospital Street Heathcote

Events for 2018 – Save the date

Thursday 4th January 2018 - Outdoor Cinema Free- Screening -Red Dog True Blue (PG). Time 7pm-9pm. Contact phone 0428 253 104 Venue: Redesdale Recreation Reserve Kyneton & Redesdale Rd Redesdale

Friday 12th January 2018 - Outdoor Cinema Free- Screening: Sing (G). Time: 7pm-9pm. Contact phone 1800 813 153 Venue: Barrack Reserve High St Heathcote

Thursday 25th January 2018- Heathcote Night Market- Time: 5pm-9:30pm. Contact phone 0400 675 995 Venue: Barrack Reserve High St Heathcote

Saturday 3rd February 2018- Heathcote Bush Market- Time: 8am-1pm. Contact ph 0400 675 995 Venue: Barrack Reserve High St Heathcote

Friday 16th February 2018- Heathcote Summer Family Day- Time: 3:30pm- 7:30pm. Contact 1800 813 153 Venue: Barrack Reserve High St Heathcote

Friday 16th February 2018- Heathcote Night Market- Time: 5pm- 9:30pm. Contact 1800 813 153 Venue: Barrack Reserve High St Heathcote

Saturday 3rd March 2018 Spanish Festival in Heathcote- More details later

Sunday 4th March 2018 Spanish Festival in Heathcote- More details later

Friday 20th April 2018 Bendigo – Sanguine Estate Music Festival- More details later Saturday 21st April 2018 Bendigo – Sanguine Estate Music Festival- More details later

Thursday 26th April 2018 Heathcote – Sanguine Estate Music Festival- More details later

Friday 27th April 2018- Heathcote – Sanguine Estate Music Festival- More details later

Saturday 28th April 2018 Heathcote – Sanguine Estate Music Festival- More details later

Sunday 29th April 2018 Heathcote – Sanguine Estate Music Festival- More details later

Redesdale Ramblings:

Summer Lilies

With the hot weather upon us it's time to make sure that the liliiums flower well by keeping up the water! Liliiums are Northern Hemisphere bulbs which mostly come from areas with rainfall into their growing season. Exceptions to that rule are those that grow where moisture is supplied in other ways such as being on river-sides, in bogs or where there is summer fog. Some of the most spectacular are Asian lilies such as *Lilium longiflorum* (Christmas Lily), *L. lancifolium* (Tiger Lily), *L. regale* (Chinese Trumpet Lily), *L. speciosum* (Pink Tiger Lily) and *L. auratum* (the Golden Rayed Lily).

These grow very well in Australian gardens, particularly in the cool Mt Dandenong and Mt Macedon gardens. The tougher ones like the Tiger Lily and *Lilium regale* will do very well in Central Victoria and even the Madonna Lily, *Lilium candidum* can be found to thrive in some gardens (but sadly not mine!). However the ones that will do really well here are the hybrids between some of these species. Lily hybrids have been raised for centuries but there was a huge boom in creating new lilies from the middle of the 20th century. In fact one breeder in Oregon, USA, named his group of Asiatic hybrids the "Mid-Century" Lilies and included the very popular 'Enchantment' which was grown by the million all around the world but is probably extinct now in Australia.

These early hybrids had to be propagated vegetatively, that is, from dividing up the bulbs or from bulbils that occur on the stem or from a technique known as "scaling" where individual scales are peeled off the bulb, put into propagating medium to develop little bulblets along the cut edge. Unfortunately the longer a plant is grown this way the easier it is for virus to infect them which leads to their decline.



Asiatic Lilium 'Red Life'

Crossing Asiatic Hybrids with the Christmas Lily created the very vigorous "L-A" or "Longiflorum-Asiatic Hybrids". These are vibrant, tall and upright with flowers in bunches in strong yellows, oranges, pinks and reds so dark they are almost black.

Australia was instrumental in re-creating a hybrid between the Pink Tiger and the Golden Rayed lilies. The first successful crossing was made by Francis Parkman in America in the 1870s but *Lilium x parkmannii* was short-lived and it wasn't until the 1930s that the world saw it reappear. In fact 2 Australian growers each produced the first stable hybrids, 'Jillian Wallace' and 'Beecheri' which were the beginning of a huge range which continue on to the current day. Now known as "Oriental Hybrids" these are powerfully scented flowers – to walk into a room full of these lilies can be considered sensory overload! The colours are mainly white to pink and red sometimes spotted or with a stripe down the middle of each petal. However the colour range and the heat-hardiness was increased by crossing these again with the Aurelian Hybrids which include some stunning Trumpet lilies so this new type are called "O-T" or "Oriental-Trumpet Hybrids". They are available in white, yellow, pink, red and a few have carmine-red petals bordered in white with greenish-yellow centres. They can grow up to 2m tall with many flowers to a stem.



Oriental-Trumpet Lilium 'Gluhwein'

These hybrids grow best in rich soil in full sun or light shade. They require plenty of water once the shoots emerge in late spring and a good organic mulch helps to keep the root zone from getting over-heated. They will not tolerate water-logged soil and benefit from growing in raised beds so that the bulbs never get too wet but the roots have plenty of room to develop. These lilies can clump up over time as the bulbs offset and some grow bulblets along the underground portion of the



Asiatic Lilium 'Sweet Surrender'

flower-stem. This means that the bulbs can become congested and need to be lifted and divided when the foliage dies down in winter. Bulbs such as daffodils have a tough outer tunic which prevents them from dehydrating when stored out of the ground, but *Liliums* don't so replant them as soon as you can. Then when summer arrives you can have an impressive display of colourful lilies.



O-T Lilium 'Robina'



Pink L-A Lilium 'Brindisi'

Cheers

Fermi

The Redesdale Rock-Gardener





Hello Dear Readers, Lady Bombay here with the monthly snippets. Now as you may recall from the last issue, I was off to visit the splendour

of open gardens at Mount Macedon. Luckily my dear old friend Contessa Von Carp was able to tear herself away from her busy schedule and accompany me on our sojourn. With the Bentley dusted over and Thorn, the gardener at the steering wheel, off we went. As the weather at Mia Mia manor was clear and sunny on the day, I was only to assume that it would be the total opposite on the Mount. As both of us were girl guides in a past life, we were well prepared with our Burberry's at hand, sensible brogues, and of course the obligatory twin set and pearls. As we approached the mount the colours of verdant green came upon us like a European landscape painting of the countryside. Quite the opposite of Mia Mia Manor's countryside

with only a 40km difference in latitude. As we arrived at the open garden the temperature dropped dramatically and instantly we sported our Burberry's. After paying the entrance fee of \$10 each, the garden itself was an array of gorgeous azaleas, rhododendrons and annuals all in full bud and bloom. As we meandered through the garden, I came upon a majestic Handkerchief tree with fluttering white flowers. Definitely a Kodak moment was required for the album. That's right, I forgot the camera. Fortunately the Contessa had her new iPhone and through the persistence of dealing with 21st century technology, we triumphed with some delightful shots until we came upon a fountain on a huge scale similar to something one would see near the petite Trianon at Versailles. I was quite confident with my iPhone skills at this stage. I decided that a photo was needed of the fountain and that Thorn, the gardener, should stand next to it to compare the large scale of the fountain. The trouble is that when taking snaps such as this, one is oblivious of one's positioning to take the snap and off course before I knew it, I was in the fountain having not seen the edge, with the Contessa screaming, "Be careful of my phone" and myself totally drenched and the background laughter of

Thorn. The care factor for me was clearly non-existent. As I tried to semi-dry myself and not drip on anything, off we went for the fundraising tea and scones for which I conveniently let Contessa pay as it was for \$15 per person and the iPhone was so important to her. With the possible onset of pleurisy coming my way, we returned to the Bentley and like throwing a shawl over my shoulders, I grabbed Randy, the black Labrador's rug, hoping that those in the parking area were not present at the time I fell into the water.

As we returned to Mia Mia Manor's yellow landscape which was definitely in Streton tones, I composed myself to an evening of double Mothers' ruin and writing an extremely long list of chores for Thorn, the gardener.

Felicitations of the Yuletide to one and all.
Lady and Lord Bombay

Garden Lore

A kiss of the sun for pardon,
The song of the birds for mirth.
One is nearer god's heart in a garden
Than anywhere else on earth.

Bombay and a Bex

Send in your questions for Lady Bombay Saphire to bridgeconnection.editor@gmail.com

Dear Lady B,

We have just downsized from our big house and garden into a unit as we are in our retiring years. The problem is there are no trees and our terrace at the unit is north facing. If we plant any trees, the shade will probably cast over the next owners' due to the length of time to grow. As we do not want to bake over summer, any suggestions?

Melting Margorie

Dear MM,

Two options for you, my dear. One is to buy an established tree and crane it in which will not only cost a king's ransom, and shall keep you on packet noodles for the rest of your life, or two, the shade sails with installed steel posts. Definitely in beige as it tends to blend with everything. Plant some moderately sized trees and it's lobster every night and mothers' ruin. Keep cool and composed at all times.

All the best,

Lady Saphire Bombay



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Sponsoring the 'Bridge Connection'



Redesdale Bush Market.

Sunday, 11th March, 2018:

9.00 am – 2.00 pm.

Agnes Mudford Reserve

2631 Kyneton - Redesdale Rd, Redesdale, 3444.



The Redesdale Hall Committee Inc. are holding their annual Bush Market in 2018 on the Labour Day long weekend at the “Agnes Mudford Reserve”, offering something of interest for all ages.

The Committee are pleased to announce that the “Bendigo and District Concert Band” will once again be entertaining the crowds.

Children’s Entertainment includes Face Painting, an Animal Farm and a Jumping Castle.

The Market begins at 9.00 am and finishes at 2.00 pm on Sun, 11th March.

*** Please Note - Limited sites are available for the following:

Wineries, Fresh Produce, Plants, Beef Jerky (1), Ice cream (1), Donuts (1), Car & Camping Accessories, Hats and Shoes, amongst others.

Car Clubs and individuals with a classic car are invited to call in to display their vehicles. Car Clubs please phone Carolyn on 5425 3194 to ensure that we save enough space for you.

Enjoy a wide selection of stalls, ranging from local produce including olives, honey, jams, chutneys, preserves, herbs, spices, cake stall and plants, through to clothing - new, pre-loved and vintage, fishing tackle, tools, art, photography, jewellery, candles, craft items, children’s plaster crafts, crochets, bags & baskets, glassware, crockery, bric a brac, food stalls, devonshire tea, ice cream, great coffee and lots more!

Why not invite your family and friends along to explore this very picturesque area in Central Victoria and make a day of it? Bring along a picnic rug or chair, enjoy the music and take in the local surroundings. (Please note that the weather can be quite different to other areas - sometimes drier! If in doubt, it’s a good idea to check with the Weather Bureau.) All Welcome!

Outside Stalls Available - \$25.00 (Pre-paid).

Public Liability Insurance is required and available if needed at a nominal price.

Please note that no new Stalls can be accepted on the day.

Bookings and Enquiries:

Alwyn - 0419 513 976 or Carolyn-Anne - 03 5425 3194.

*** Like & Share Us on Facebook: “Redesdale Bush Market 2018”***

****We are currently looking for SPONSORS – please phone Carolyn on 5425 3194.****

SHOP RURAL THIS CHRISTMAS

By Kerry Anderson

Dare I say it? Yes, it’s almost that time of the year again and the start of the annual Christmas shopping frenzy.

Well-meaning people are circulating messages about how we all should ‘Shop Local’ and avoid the internet. Of course, shopping local is great but it’s not quite that simple as everyone who lives in a small rural community knows. The reality is that our options are quite limited.

But there is still much we can do as rural residents with buying power. Here are three tips.

#1 First and foremost we can support those few local businesses that we do have in town. Make sure you give plenty of notice of what you’re seeking and they might just be able to order it in.



And a gift doesn’t have to be a product; it can also be a voucher for a service, anything from garden to computer maintenance which my parents always appreciate.

#2 Secondly, we can support other rural towns. My work takes me all over rural Australia so I’ve already started my Christmas shopping by purchasing the odd gift or two as I browse local shops. You would be amazed at what I found in the most unexpected places. Rural businesses tend to diversify so you can find unusual gifts in newsagents, post offices, and cafes. Recently I discovered that the Pyrenees Butcher in Avoca also stocks local beer and wines. Instead of heading to Bendigo or Melbourne why not plan a pleasant day cruising around the wider district and visit other rural towns.

#3 And thirdly, in the midst of a digital technological revolution, it is ridiculous to demonise on-line shopping especially when some of those online businesses are rural based and gaining benefit from a wider geographic audience. Check out the ‘about’ or ‘contact’ section to see where they are located. You may well find that you are supporting a young person in a rural community such as my own daughter whose business is totally online.

Continued next page

Redesdale Recreational Reserve Committee Inc. Chairman's Monthly Report December 2017

Hi Redesdalians,
The Festival and Art show are behind us and what a fantastic result was achieved by the Reserve Committee. With a turnover of \$13,000 Dollars we finished with a surplus of \$4000. Congratulations to all our hard working volunteers for making it such an outstanding success because without you it wouldn't happen. After speaking with stall holders and patrons on the day they are all looking forward to future markets. The Committee is considering running three markets in 2018 adding local produce stalls, and more local entertainment. These dates will be

revealed early next year when we finalise details. Moving on to the Reserve Precinct, the DDWG Group have met again to assist the council appointed Consultant with the brief, that will go to three consulting groups appointed by CoGB who will present concept drawings. To allay any concerns a list of objectives from the community may have, I can assure these community members, nothing has been committed to any design, and designs that are presented will be made available for community comment. Community members have probably seen council contractors working at the reserve doing prep work ie, cable & pipe

location and also soil testing. I anticipate some exciting designs which will be worth considering.

Finally the festive season is racing up on us and I would like on behalf of the Reserve Committee to wish the community "MERRY CHRISTMAS" and a safe and prosperous NEW YEAR .

Keep smiling until next year 2018.

Les Pocock



Kerry Anderson: continued from previous page:

Every dollar we spend in a rural town has a multiplier effect in these rural communities. It helps keep these small businesses alive and retaining jobs for local people.



An old butter factory in Cohuna has been converted into Factory and Field, a homewares store, including a whole section dedicated to Christmas!

Redesdale Community Precinct Project Update December 2017

Site assessment/inspection (soil, power and pipe locations etc.) has commenced under direction from the council which shall be 'as is' input into the master plan for the precinct. So you may have seen people doing the prep work recently. Other interest and facility user groups' contact details are being shared with council so those groups and contacts identified may be contacted directly by council in due course.

As advised in last months BC, a tender is about to be let for a consultant to create a precinct master plan with all viable options for consideration by the community. It is hoped that the consultant shall be appointed this year with detailed work commencing later in January.

A list of names has been provided to the DDWG indicating objection to one of the options being discussed by the group re office space location. The council is allowing the consultant (once appointed) the freedom to explore all the best and relevant options for the whole precinct without 'fear or favour'. Therefore at this stage this communication has been discussed and noted by the DDWG with the intent that any/all options on the table shall form input into community discussions at the appropriate evaluation time later next year. To be clear, the DDWG has shared all our suggested options for location of facilities with council only at this time; providing the opportunity for the winning consultant to do what they do best and provide alternatives which we trust he or she will do for us.

As offered previously should anyone have queries on this exciting community opportunity please contact me and I shall be happy to discuss and share with the DDWG for feedback as required. Regards and best wishes for now, John Beurle DDWG co-ordinator. 0422001924 or john.beurle@gmail.com

Wild Action: Where the Zoo Comes to You Tahlia Campbell

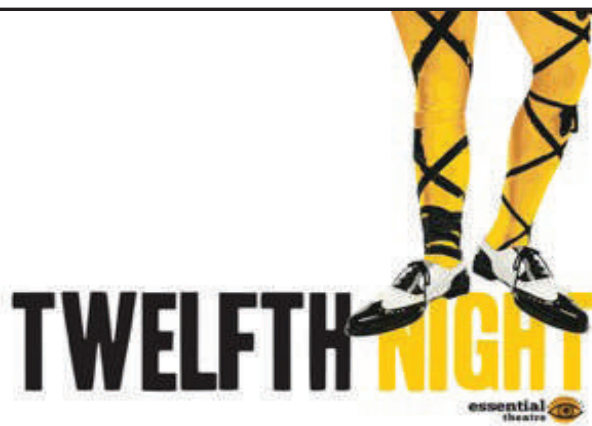
The Redesdale Camp Oven Cook-Off was treated to a variety of furry, feathered and scaly friends, thanks to Wild Action. Throughout the day, the animal handlers entertained visitors with their menagerie of Australian animals, ranging from the cute and cuddly to the sharp and slimy. People watching had the opportunity to pat a koala, a wallaby, a quoll, a monitor lizard, a gecko, an owl, and more.

The show provided a great opportunity for kids and kids at heart to get up close and personal to some amazing native animals, while also learning about their habits and their role in nature.

The handlers were happy to talk and answer questions about the animals. Education is important to Wild Action, following their slogan; "In the end we will conserve only what we love and we will love only what we understand."

Through education, Wild Action hopes to teach Australians to love and respect their wildlife, especially the animals who get a bad rap. Casper and Dominic, Wild Action's pythons, came along to provide some usual information about snakes, which is very important to keep in mind during the summer.

Continued on page 19



Saturday, 13 January, 2018
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How to beat the heat



With summer here it's important to know and understand the effects of extreme heat—who is at risk and how you can reduce the effect on yourself and others.

Heat can cause illnesses such as heat cramps and heat exhaustion which in many cases can be fatal.

So when the heat hits, here are some useful tips to ensure you remain as comfortable, healthy and cool as possible.

- Drink water: Even if you don't feel thirsty, drink water. Always take a bottle of water with you.
- Keep cool: Seek out air-conditioned buildings, draw your blinds, use a fan, take cool showers and dress in light and loose clothing made from natural fabrics.
- Plan ahead: Schedule activities in the coolest part of the day and avoid exercising in the heat. If you must go out, wear a hat and sunscreen and take a bottle of water with you.
- Help others: Look after those most at risk in the heat – your neighbour living alone, the elderly, the very young, people with a medical condition and don't forget your pets.
- Hot cars kill: Never leave kids, adults or pets in hot cars. The temperature inside a parked car can double within minutes. On locally declared Heat Health Alert days, our libraries in Gisborne, Kyneton, Romsey and Woodend will be running our Beat the Heat program.

Head there for a comfortable air-conditioned space that offers free water, toys for the kids and of course, books, magazines and newspapers to read, as well as free WiFi and internet access.

Hunters fined and receive 12 month good behaviour bond

Two men, from Eppalock and Mansfield, pleaded guilty at the Myrtleford Magistrates Court for the illegal carriage of firearms and spotlighting equipment at night in recognised deer habitat near Myrtleford. The hunters were intercepted on 16 June 2017 at a roadblock operated by Victoria Police, Game Management Authority (GMA) and Parks Victoria officers on Buffalo River Road at Dandongadale.



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Hall happenings



Our indoor market, held on Sunday 5th November (Melbourne Cup weekend), was a great day. We had an abundance of plants for sale, which were extremely popular, as were the preserves, cakes, and bric-a-brac.

Devonshire teas again proved very popular. A couple of shoppers asked if we were planning the market as a monthly event; maybe food for thought ?

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all!

RECIPE OF THE MONTH 28

Lynette's grandmother's "Last Minute Christmas Pudding"

Avid Bridge Connection reader, Lynette Dawe has sent us this recipe in time for Christmas. She says it was originally in the Herald Sun during World War II, when everything was rationed and her family have been enjoying it ever since. Thanks, Lynette!



- 2 level tablespoons of butter
- 1 1/2 cups of mixed fruit
- 6 -8 cherries
- 3 tablespoons sugar
- 1 level teaspoon of sifted bicarb soda
- 1 1/2 cups sifted plain flour
- 1 1/2 cups boiling water
- 1/2 cup raisins
- 1 teaspoon mixed spice
- 1 tablespoon brandy
- Icing sugar to garnish

On Christmas Eve, put into a mixing bowl; butter and water and stir until butter is dissolved. Add fruit, cherries, mixed spice, sugar, and bicarb., stirring well after each edition. Add flour and blend thoroughly. Cover and leave in bowl overnight. On Christmas morning, stir in the brandy. Grease a pudding bowl and fill 2/3 with mixture. Stand basin on a rack in a pan with bubbling water which is about 2 inches (5 cms) up the side of the basin. Keep water simmering well. Cook for 3 hours. Turn out onto a hot dish, cover the top with icing sugar or pour on brandy and light it. The pudding may be served with custard or cream or both.

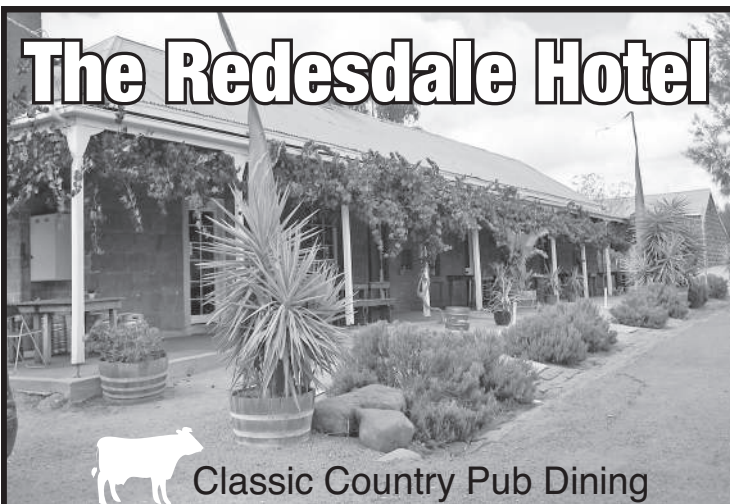
Continued from page 17:

The handlers reminded us that when it comes to snakes, the best thing to do is to stay away. Be careful where you step, and never try to aggravate a snake on purpose. Leave them alone, and they'll leave you alone.

Despite their bad reputations, Casper and Dominic were well-behaved, and gave some nice big hugs to visitors of the Camp Oven Cook-Off!



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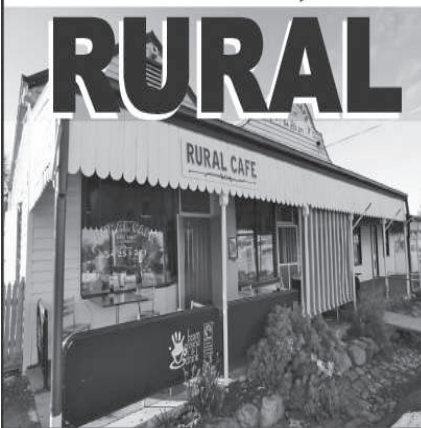


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Your Health!

with
Dr Tim

Ever since life on earth developed into multicellular organisms, there has been a strange thing happening called sexual reproduction. It is a process whereby two individuals share their DNA to create a different – and potentially totally unique

– individual. It is a very complicated process, even for organisms that bypass mating behaviour and ritual! The upside of this process is the amazing diversity that this can be produced in a population. It has allowed life on earth to develop into a many-splendored thing – vast numbers of different species – everything from Birds-of-paradise to bullants and more.

There is also however considerable risk in this process – quite simply that “throwing” together two sets of DNA will not produce an appropriate mix – too much from one individual, too little from the other, genes that don’t ‘get along’. I still find it amazing that reproduction works as well as it does!

One such mix-up is called Down Syndrome after the British physician Dr John Langdon Down who described this condition in 1866. Amazingly it wasn’t until 1959 that a French Professor Jerome Le Jeune identified trisomy 21 as the cause of Down Syndrome. Prenatal diagnosis of genetic disorders is a rapidly evolving field, but it is still true today that most prenatal genetic testing is carried out to detect the random misallocation of chromosome 21 that is Down Syndrome. Indeed with today’s trend to older-age mums, prenatal testing has become a hugely important part of pregnancy care. Scientific endeavour fortunately has kept pace with this trend, (or has it helped set the trend?)

The discovery of fetal DNA floating free in the blood-stream of preg-

nant women 20 years ago was surely going to lead to a whole new window for investigation of the fetus. Testing of maternal blood is the basis of a test called, prosaically, Non-Invasive Prenatal Testing, or NIPT to give it its medical acronym. It is now possible to detect Down syndrome with much-improved accuracy with this technique. The test that it replaces was essentially a calculation of probability based on measurement of different proteins in the maternal blood and of the Nuchal fold or “thickening of the neck” of the baby on ultrasound. None of these measurements closely correlate with trisomy 21, but in a process of statistical analysis they give sufficient predictive power to make decisions about further invasive and potentially risky testing with amniocentesis.

Although the NIPT is an expensive test which is currently unfunded by Medicare, it is certainly arguable that the extra cost is justifiable when you consider that investigation is less likely to be required following the NIPT than following the previous combined screening test.

It is important to know that the combined screen has been useful in identifying pregnancies which are at risk for other reasons such as growth restriction or pre-eclampsia.

My point is also to underscore the multi-faceted approach required to accurately assess the satisfactory progress of pregnancy.

I expect in time other similar tests will become available for rarer hereditary disorders, but the NIPT as it is has greatly improved the quality of information available to parents about the health of their baby.

Personally I am of the view that the NIPT is an amazingly simple yet powerful test which will save many parents from the shock at birth of a random and unexpected chromosomal mix-up.

Dr Tim Stobie 5422 1397

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OUTDOOR MOVIE NIGHT
CINEMA UNDER THE STARS

Redesdale
Rec Reserve Committee-
in combination with
Bendigo Summer in the
Parks program presents
a
FREE
night
Thursday
Jan 4th
7 - 9pm
REDESDALE
RECREATION
RESERVE

Flood planning moving forward

Following months of community consultation, the development of the Regional Floodplain Management Strategy (RFMS) is moving forward. Since the 2010-11 floods, work has been done to improve flood mapping, flood warning systems and community flood awareness for specific towns, but as a region, there is still work to do.

North Central CMA Regional Floodplain Management Strategy Project Manager Shaun Morgan said community consultation was the first step in developing a regional strategy for floodplain management.

“We will develop action lists for each municipality, and there will be a number of region-wide actions that straddle council boundaries. Councils and other government agencies will then be able to align their potential to source and allocate funds towards implementing priority actions.” Regional strategies interpret and apply the policies and accountabilities called for by the Victorian Flood Management Strategy.

“Everyone has a role to play in managing flood risks and preparing for flood events,” Mr Morgan said.

“Floodplain management is a never-ending cycle, requiring actions before, during and after a flood. Flooding is natural and inevitable across Victoria. We cannot prevent flooding, we can only manage its impact on communities.”

Detailed risk evaluations, in the form of flood studies, fill gaps in knowledge and help communities consider flood management options.

The Victorian Government has commitment \$25 million funding to support implementation of the Victorian Floodplain Management Strategy.


The Draft Floodplain Management Strategy is available at <http://bit.ly/regflood>

Sunday
11th MARCH
9.00am-2pm

Redesdale

BUSH MARKET

CHILDREN'S
ENTERTAINMENT



Redesdale Hall @ the Agnes Mudford Reserve
 ~ Outdoor Stalls Available ~
 Enquiries: Alwyn - 0419 513 976 or Carolyn-Anne - 54253194

Mia Mia Fire Brigade Meeting

The annual meeting and BBQ was held at the Mia Mia Fire Station on Friday 10th November with a good attendance and many matters were discussed. Colin Smith was awarded his 10-year service medal. An honour board was dedicated to the past Captains, Secretaries, Presidents and Life Members. A special thank you goes to the members who made the beautiful salads and the cooks who manned the BBQ. A big thank you goes to Neil Ellis who worked on and provided the honour board. Fire restrictions came into the Mia Mia Redesdale area from November 20th.



Outside the firestation is a beautiful rose called "Firefighter". This rose is so named as to remember those men and women who risk their lives daily to protect ours". Quirky interesting fact: This rose was planned for release in the Winter of 2009 AFTER the Black Saturday fires and is quite separate to the CFA Firestar series of roses which commenced release in 2010!

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THURSDAYS
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SATURDAYS
 7am-7.45am
 at Redesdale
 /Mia Mia
 Primary School

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 Gain Confidence, Lose Fat, Inches, Weight **BE SOCIAL and HAVE FUN!**

All Fitness levels welcome! Come along, bring a drink bottle, a towel and prepare to have fun and be puffed! **ARE YOU READY TO MAKE A CHANGE?**

JESSICA CARR 0402 018 783





bridge abroad PRIZE



Andrew Zegelin of Travel Centre Bendigo (see advertisement on page 27) has judged the Bridge Abroad photos for this year. And the winner is...The Atkins Family... for their great photo of 7 of the family standing under the sign of The Birdsville Hotel on page 26 of the November edition. The prize is a two night stay at Perricoota Vines retreat - see below.



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**CONGRATULATIONS
to the Atkins family!**

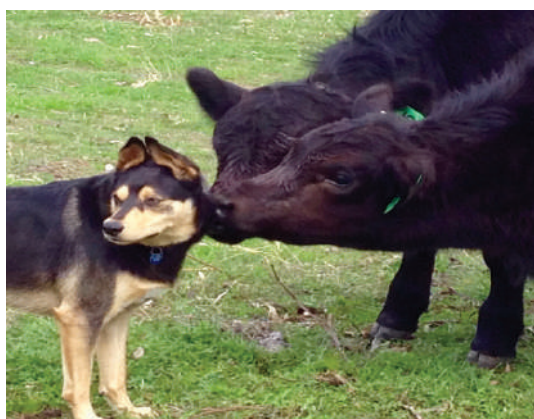


PET PALS PRIZE



Leigh Coghlan of Kyneton Veterinary Hospital has judged the Pet Pals prize for this year. He has chosen the photo of Boof Abramowski being licked by calves (in Edition 85, June). The Abramowskis win a \$100 voucher for Kyneton Vet Hospital. Thank you Leigh.

**CONGRATULATIONS
to the Abramowski family!**



Everyone at Kyneton Veterinary Hospital believes veterinary services in Kyneton should be as good as it gets. We thrive on keeping ourselves current, re-educated, and inspired. What is important to us is the overall good health that your animal deserves to enjoy.

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