



Redesdale showcases new internet technology



Left to Rrgh: Ben Bulmer (Govt. advisor to NBN), Ebony Aitken (Head of NBN Local, Vic. and Tas.), Grant Sutton (Agcloud), Sen. Bridget McKenzie (Fed. Minister for Regional Communications), Gael Broad (Nationals candidate, Bendigo East), Alex Lewis (Beverly Merinos), Tom James (Coliban Estate), John Barty (Beverly Merinos), Lachie Barty (Beverly Merinos).

Senator Bridget McKenzie, Federal Minister for Regional Communication, visited Beverly Merino Stud in Redesdale on a cold and blustery 14th June along with NBN officials to view new technology infrastructure assisting with internet blackspot solutions. Redesdale has become the pilot project centre for Agcloud which has been featured before in Bridge Connection. The technology has been developed by a Bendigo-based company. Company founder, Grant Sutton has familiarity with the area having been raised in Sedgewick. He has developed internet solutions for clients in the area having recognised the difficulties that local farmers and other residents have experienced.

Because mobile phone coverage is also compromised in this region, it is exciting to learn that through 'wifi calling' (a feature in new

smart phones), phone blackspots may become a thing of the past if wifi from NBN fixed wireless is available.

The minister was very impressed with the new system and this was her second visit to Redesdale to discuss the shortcomings of mobile and wifi coverage.

NBN is working hard to improve its customer experiences in regional Victoria and this visit was instigated by local NBN manager Ebony Aitken. Frank van Rooden, a fixed wireless engineer and technical specialist also from NBN has been instrumental in promoting regional and rural connectivity through innovative companies such as Agcloud. Agcloud's client base is increasing considerable in this area.

At the website: agcloud.com.au you will find a short video which explains the system very well.

Our annual Community Grants program is coming up soon!
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BIRD QUIZ with NIGEL HARLAND



Last month's bird was the White-naped Honeyeater. This is a little less common than the White-plumed honeyeater that was featured last month. The white nape is the white "stripe" on the back of the neck, but the bird can be readily identified by the fact that it has a red crescent on the top of the eye. This bird can be found along the Eastern coast of Australia and in Southern parts of Victoria. There is a population in the South West of Western Australia. Our bird for next month is a migrant to our region in the summertime (where the livin' is easy!). **Nigel**

If you think you know what bird this is, and you haven't received a prize before, please send in the name of the bird and your name, email and postal address and you could be in running for a \$20 book voucher from **Squishy Minnie Bookstore** in Kyneton. Send it to : bridgeconnection.editor@gmail.com

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This is Jezebel (a Boerboel) and beside her is Minnie (a brown Burmese). They are both beloved of Beth and Garth and their family - from the Redesdale Hotel. Jezebel has decided to monopolise Minnie's bed, but Minnie doesn't seem to care as long as she can be near the fire.

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PET PALS

Editorial

Hello Readers,
Lots of important information in this edition. In the letter from Nic James (page 21) you will find information about a useful app that can be used to notify authorities about rubbish dumping.

The date has been set for the Bridge Connection fundraising night, Oct 6th (page 4) so please save the date and come and support us. Our very own Lady B will be our MC and many of you already know and appreciate Jefferson Smith.

The 2018 Redesdale Community Plan is well on its way, as is Mia Mia's. They will be launched in coming months (page 20). Collaboration between Mia Mia and Redesdale are high on the agenda.

This month's contribution from the fire brigade is huge! Well done Michelle King and all those who received long service medals, including Brian James for 70 years service!



Regina Bennett



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BRIDGE CONNECTION COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER

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Amenities are available for catering, meetings, weddings and club or family celebrations.

Please phone

Carolyn (03) 5425 3194 for more information.

Redesdale Hall Activities:

- 1st Friday monthly at 9.30am
Bridge Connection Committee meeting
- 2nd Tuesday monthly, 1pm - Hall Comm. Meetings.
- 2nd Tuesday monthly, 7 pm - Rec. Reserve Meetings.

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Sutton Grange Hall Events

Saturday 14 July Mid-year Feast. 6 pm start. A catered dinner of 2 courses. Details TBA.

Saturday 4 August Trivia night. 7 pm start. \$5 per head for participants. Supper provided. Prize for winning table.

Monday 27 August AGM. 7.30 start. All welcome. Bring ideas for management and events.

Saturday 1 September Sports night. 7 pm start. Table tennis, carpet bowls etc. bring supper to share.

Saturday 22 September Fun night 7 pm start. Games. bring a plate for supper.

Wednesday 21 October 21st Treasure hunt. 10 am start. \$2 per child, \$5 per family. Morning tea provided.

Saturday 10 Nov 10th Bingo. 7 pm start. \$5 per card. Supper provided. Prizes for winners .

Sunday 2 December 2nd Christmas Tea. Satrt 6 pm. bring a main and desert to share. Santa visits at 8 pm.

Outstanding customer service recognised with state award

Organisation, problem-solving and a passion for people are just a few of the qualities that Anita Wilson, a staff member at Kyneton Toyota Sports & Aquatic Centre was recognised for at the annual Aquatics and Recreation industry awards dinner on Friday 15 June.



Anita has been employed by Macedon Ranges Shire Council as a staff member since 2002, and was awarded the 2018 Excellence in Customer Service Award by Aquatics and Recreation Victoria at the gala event.

The awards recognise and reward outstanding achievement and commitment to the industry.

Council's Director Community Wellbeing Karen Stevens said she was proud of her achievements, and the quality of service at the centre it represents. "This is the fifth consecutive year that a staff member from the centre has been recognised with an award at the Aquatics and Recreation industry awards, and we couldn't be happier," she said. "Anita strives to create a culture of outstanding customer service at KTSAC, and she leads by example.

"Listening to staff and clients, empathising with their concerns, and having the skills to solve problems are a few of the ways Anita works with the staff team, and also with the community. "Winning this prestigious award highlights the professionalism and quality of service that Council staff offer, and it's great to have that acknowledged," she said.

Previous winners include Joan Foote-Jackson (Swim Teacher for Infants, Toddlers and Pre-School Award, 2017), Cheryl Knight (Swim Teacher for People with a Disability, 2016), Pam Mathews (Teacher of Swimming & Water Safety, 2015), Marie Noonan (Teacher of Swimming & Water Safety, 2014) and Lisa Pennington (Teacher of Swimming & Water Safety, 2006).

For information about Council's aquatic and leisure centres and programs, visit mrsc.vic.gov.au/leisure or call 5422 0333.

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AGM

FRIDAY AUG 10TH

9.30 am

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AGM

THURSDAY

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THE MUNRO LETTERS

Episode 15

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

The spring as it appears of the present embarrassment of the colony is to be found in the gross overestimate of its resources and prospects. This led to speculation to an enormous amount and this again to puffing to the same amount. These reacted upon one another; that there were some who saw the position of the colony and the hollowness of the speculations engaged in, I have little doubt, but it was not in their interest to point this out; on the contrary it was in their interest to puff as vigorously as anyone and to take advantage of the gulls who believed in all the nonsense in circulation and saw no limits to the prosperity of the country.

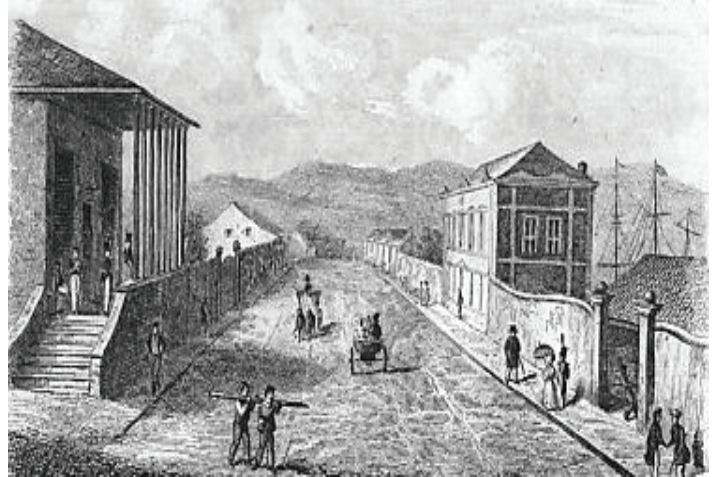
That this latter class was a very large majority there can be little doubt. If we look to the history of the origin and rise of this colony, we find in it something quite anomalous, a state of things really very extraordinary.. The original source of the present lamentable condition of the colony is, I think, to be found in a very gross overestimate of its intrinsic value, which though now considerable weakened has not yet entirely subsided. Its progress, owing to different concurring causes, has been beyond all precedent rapid, and calculated to mislead anyone who did not examine closely into the foundations of its prosperity. The result of this has been that a fictitious value has been put upon things bearing no relation to their intrinsic worth particularly upon land, a system which has deluded the majority into speculation to an immense amount and has induced an extravagance of living and reckless expenditure resting upon a foundation altogether hollow.



Melbourne 1840 - with permission - Alamy stock photo

Will it be believed that while land of the best quality can be purchased in the vicinity of Edinburgh or Glasgow for £100 or £150 per acre, the sum of from £300 or £500 is demanded at the same distance from Sydney for an acre of rock, sand and bushes. How can this possibly be? I think you may ask and I would fancy it would puzzle anyone to give you a satisfactory answer. Sydney is hardly as important a town as either Edinburgh or Glasgow, but a year ago an Australian would have told you and many of them will tell you yet that it is going to be a second London: with this belief firmly impressed upon their minds, their conduct is quite rational, but then I must say they always put me in mind of the definition of a madman, a man who reasons correctly upon false premises. They will tell you next that the interest of money is so large in consequence of profitable opportunities of investment and the fructifying nature of the country that rents must be high and

land dear in proportion, , "What", says the Sydney Herald of August 1842, "will the profits of sheep, cattle, farming and merchandise enable the colonists to pay 12 per cent interest and yet leave a surplus for their own remuneration? We firmly believe with the Governor and with many others practically acquainted with the subject that they will not."



George Street Sydney 1840

There is not the smallest doubt that the price put upon land in and about Sydney is altogether preposterous, and in accordance with its intrinsic value, this state of things has arisen from the immensely rapid growth of the colony and an over-estimate of its capabilities. It is a very interesting thing, and not only interesting but instructive, to examine into the origin and progress of a colony. Now that method and science are being introduced into colonisation, we look upon it not only as a narration of facts which stimulates our imagination and curiosity, but as one of the most interesting problems of political economy and find its failure or prosperity in connection with certain conditions and regulations the effect of which we are now beginning to understand. This, one of the last, but one of the most important of Britain's colonies has risen to its present condition almost under the eyes of the existing generation. We possess accurate information on all subjects connected with it.

We have seen with our own eyes the effect produced by the different systems of policy by which it has been regulated; its distance has excited our curiosity; its rapid development has made it an object of prominent notice, as phrenologists might say, through the organ of acquisitiveness. In short, we have seen in our own times a nation spring into existence and pass through its most critical period of infancy and helplessness, until it is almost able to walk by itself.. It is not one of the most interesting subjects of observation which the working of man presents to us. If this subject were to be fully entered into and followed out into all its ramifications, it would be an essay on the science of founding colonies. Don't be alarmed! I neither intend to attempt this, nor do I feel that if I attempted it, I should have the least chance of succeeding, but I think that it will assist us materially in forming a correct opinion of the present condition of the colony if we take a cursory retrospect of some of its most striking peculiarities, and in particular, we shall be led to see how it came to be estimated so far above its real merits.

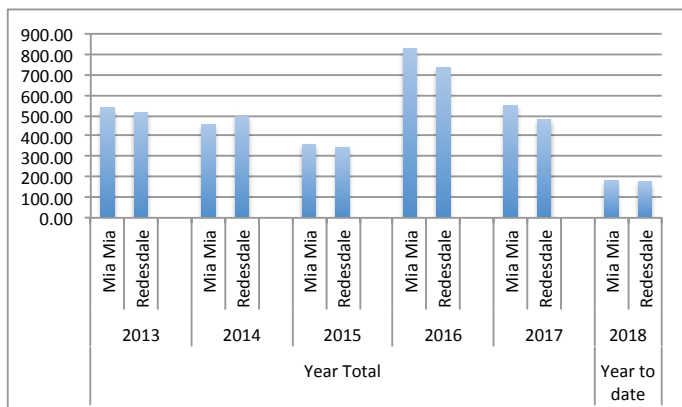
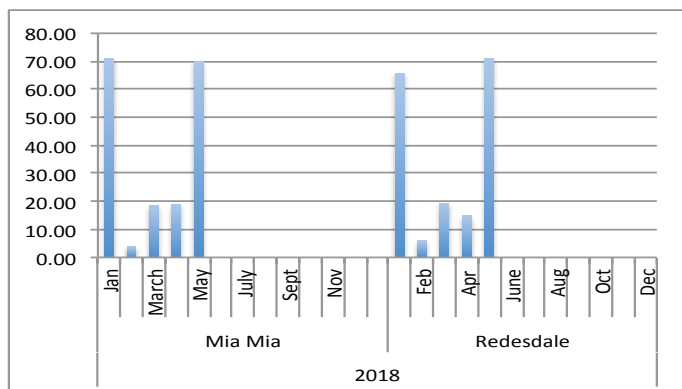
Next month:

It is very doubtful if the originators of the scheme of sending those who had broken through the laws of our native country... to a land on the opposite side of the world, the coast of which only had been seen and described by Captain Cook...



The average yearly rainfall for Redesdale is about 601mms.

Thank you to Mary Bennett for the Mia Mia readings.



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Mia Mia: 3rd Sunday of each month
Sutton Grange: 4th Sunday of each month

Morning tea is served at each of these Uniting Churches at 9.45 am and services start at 10 am. If there is a 5th Sunday in the month, services may be found at Kyneton.

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Quote of the month:

"With age comes wisdom, but sometimes age comes alone."

Oscar Wilde



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School news...

Students have been very busy at school this month. They have participated in National Simultaneous Storytime by watching 'Hickory Dickory Dash' being read on the internet, have been swimming at the Kyneton Aquatic Centre and had a bus trip to Melbourne to watch Hansel & Gretel which was performed by the Victorian Opera at the Playhouse. Students themselves performed at 'The Biggest Morning Tea at the Redesdale Hall, reading some of their poetry and singing a couple of songs.

At school, they have just completed their Athletics clinic and have enjoyed participating in skills training and have certainly shown an improvement in the ability to run, jump and dodge. During their Integrated Studies they have investigated solids, liquids and gases through their 'What's the Matter?' unit of work. Upper school students have enjoyed watching Behind the News (BTN) and discussing their opinion about current news items.



Acting principal:

Trish Johnstone
Phone: 5425 3155



Squishy Minnie Bookstore

By Tahlia Campbell

Tucked away on Mollison Street in Kyneton is a delightful children's bookstore named Squishy Minnie. The long-lasting dream of owner Kristen Proud, Squishy Minnie has been encouraging a love of literature for children and young adults for over a year now, and its success only continues to grow. The shop offers a much-needed refuge for the young people of Kyneton and our region, a place where students can come after school to relax or for parents to find the perfect gift for their children. The shop promotes inclusivity and diversity through a vast range of carefully selected books, and Kristen's human-book matchmaking skills make sure that everyone can find the right book for them.



Squishy Minnie has established itself as more than just a seller of books. Fostering a love for books at an early age is incredibly important for Kristen, and is encouraged by weekly storytimes hosted by her partner Lucky, as well as monthly Spanish and ASL storytimes. Squishy Minnie hosts monthly book clubs for primary school children, high school students, and adults who read young adult books. These book clubs are safe, welcoming environments where everyone is invited to speak critically about their books and voice their opinions.

The warm community environment of Squishy Minnie has clearly made a good impression on its patrons, with many in-store events including book signings and readings bringing authors into the shop. These provide great opportunities for readers to meet their favourite writers without having to travel far from home, and the homey feel of the shop allows for a more intimate, personal experience.

Squishy Minnie is worth a visit if you find yourself trying to get out of the freezing Kyneton weather. Even if you aren't looking for anything in particular, you'll always be greeted by a smiling face and you might be surprised with what you find.

Information about book clubs, in-store events and more can be found on their website, www.squishyminnie.com.au



Bridge Connection says **a big thank you** to Squishy Minnie Bookstore for becoming sponsors of Bird Quiz. If you correctly pick the bird of the month (see page 2) you will be in the running for a \$20 voucher from Squishy Minnie Bookstore.



Woodend Community Farmers' Market

Sat 7th July
Cnr High & Forest Streets, Woodend
0487 444 090 Sharon Kittson

Daylesford Farmer's Market

Sat 7th July
Daylesford Primary School
03 5664 0096 Peter Arnold

Kyneton Farmers' Market

Sat 14th July
St Pauls Park, Piper Street, Kyneton
54 221 025 Veronica Maniford

Riddells Creek Farmers' Market

Sat 21st July
Riddells Creek Primary School, Riddells Creek
0408 254 626 Ali Bant

Lancefield & District Farmers' Market

Sat 28th July
Centre Plantation, High Street, Lancefield
0407 860 320 Meggs Hannes

Maldon Market

Sunday 8th July

It is recommended that you check these dates with the market website if possible.

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Steph Ryan MP

Member for Euroa

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Irrigators deserve full transparency on Basin plans

Northern Victorian communities will be relieved to see an agreement reached today between Basin Ministers guarantees no more water will be recovered from Victoria through on-farm measures.

We know our communities, particularly those in the Goulburn Murray Irrigation District, can't afford to lose more water.

This agreement shows Federal Nationals' Water Minister David Littleproud has listened to our concerns and recognises the significant work Victoria has already done contributing our fair share under the Basin Plan.

It is now critical Daniel Andrews and Lisa Neville are fully transparent on the projects Victoria will put forward as part of the Victorian Government's commitment to finding efficiencies through off-farm projects.

Lisa Neville must also give GMID irrigators a guarantee she won't trade away the 75GL of water to be returned to irrigators from Stage 1 of the Connections Project.

This water, given to the Commonwealth Government as a down payment for Stage 2 of the Connections Project, must be returned – in full – to our irrigators by the June 2019 deadline. **Steph Ryan, MP**

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Adopt a healthier lifestyle and cut your cancer risk

A recent snapshot by the Cancer Council of Victoria has revealed that a healthier and more active lifestyle can prevent one third of cancers.

According to their findings, 487 people in the Euroa electorate are diagnosed with cancer each year with 1564 currently battling the disease.

Member for Euroa and Deputy Leader of The Nationals Steph Ryan said residents need to be aware of the early warning signs and take a proactive approach to reduce their own cancer risk.

"One third of cancers can be prevented. By making small adjustments in our day-to-day lives, we can lower our risk and the risk of those close to us," Ms Ryan said.

"It is important to check regularly for unusual changes to our bodies and have regular screening tests including tests for bowel, breast, prostate and cervical cancers.

"Unusual changes could include lumps or sores that don't heal, changes in the shape, size or colour of a mole or skin spot and unexplained weight loss.

"The free HPV vaccine offered to girls and boys aged 12-13 can aid in the prevention of some HPV-related cancers, including cervical cancer.

"Maintaining a healthy weight and partaking in regular exercise can help decrease the risk of some types of cancer, including bowel, breast and oesophagus cancer in women.

"Limiting your alcohol intake to two standard drinks a day can further prevent the risk of some cancers, including those of the mouth, stomach, liver, breast and bowel.

"One hour of moderate activity or 30 minutes of vigorous activity is recommended to improve general health and fitness. Doing this regularly reduces the risk of bowel and breast cancers.

"Being SunSmart and quitting smoking can also drastically decrease your chances of developing cancer.

"By following these simple steps, we can cut our cancer risk and live a healthier, happier life."

For further information about making changes to your lifestyle to cut your cancer risk, visit <https://www.cancervic.org.au/preventing-cancer>.

Apprenticeship numbers fall as Labor cuts training budget

Victoria's training sector is declining under Labor with new data showing apprenticeship commencements dropped by 16.1 per cent between 2016 and 2017.

Victoria saw the biggest decline of any Australian state, according to the report by the National Centre for Vocational Education Research (NCVER) released this month. Asked in Parliament today about the slump in the number of apprentice commencements, Training and Skills Minister Gayle Tierney confessed there has been "a decline in the number of apprentices in Victoria", blaming it on a national trend "happening across all jurisdictions".

But Victoria's plummeting numbers are not part of a nationwide trend. Rising commencement numbers were recorded between 2016 and 2017 in Queensland (8.5%), ACT (4.6%) and NSW (3.7%). Despite the drastic decline in Victoria, the Andrews Labor Government has placed caps on providers who are delivering pre-apprenticeships and apprenticeships in high needs skill areas. Labor has cut the training budget and capped enrolments in key areas of training, stopping young people from getting the skills they need to get a job.

Steph Ryan MP

UNDER LABOR MORE CENTRAL VICTORIANS WILL GET THE CHANCE TO GO TO UNI

The Federal Member for Bendigo Lisa Chesters MP has announced Labor's plans to abolish Malcolm Turnbull's unfair cap on student university places. This means around 1100 more Bendigo locals will be on their way to university if Labor is elected to Government at the next Federal Election.

The Liberal Government effectively capped the number of student places when Mr Turnbull cut \$2.2 billion from universities last December.

"The limit on places hits regional universities and prospective students the hardest. Labor doesn't think that's fair, so we will abolish the cap," said Ms Chesters.

Modelling by the Mitchell Institute shows that almost 200,000 more Australians will benefit from Labor's new plan over 12 years.

When last in Government, Labor uncapped student places back in 2008, which by 2016 had seen an extra 917 Bendigo students get the opportunity of a university education. Many of these students were the first in their family to attend university.

The university sector, including Universities Australia, Innovative Research Universities, the Group of Eight, Australian Catholic University and La Trobe University have all welcomed Labor's plan to reverse the current freeze in university funding and to restore the demand-driven system.

In a recent public statement La Trobe Vice-Chancellor Professor John Dewar said the move would be a step change for regional Australians, who are currently only half as likely to obtain a university degree compared to their metropolitan residents.

Because Labor uncapped uni places, by 2016:

- the number of students from poorer backgrounds was up by 55 per cent;
- Indigenous student numbers had jumped by 89 per cent;
- enrolments by students with a disability had more than doubled; and
- enrolments by students from country areas had grown by 48 per cent.

"Labor understands how vital access to higher education in Central Victoria is and the critical role regional universities play in regards to regional development.

"Malcolm Turnbull says he can't find the money to properly fund unis. But he can find \$80 billion to give away to big business and the banks. His priorities are all wrong," Ms Chesters said.





Federal Member for Bendigo

LISA CHESTERS MP



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National Volunteers Week

As part of National Volunteers week, on May 25th, Lisa Chesters presented a number of award certificates to volunteers in many local not-for-profit organisations. The editors of Bridge Connection were honored to receive their award certificate in Kyneton.



In 2011, after the Black Saturday fires that caused major destruction in the Redesdale area, Bernie Campbell, who had been attending a leadership program, obtained a grant to start a much-needed community newspaper. She had the full support of her husband Brett who worked side-by-side with Bernie setting up a team and printing the monthly paper which they called Bridge Connection. It was all on a voluntary basis.

A major support to the Campbells during this time was Regina Bennett, who slid into the role of secretary to the committee with consummate ease with her impeccable internet skills. Kathy Hall was a contributor and committee member at the time.

The Campbells and their team built the paper up over two years but the workload took its toll and eventually they had to call it a day. For a short while the paper discontinued and then restarted with a professional editor – however the cost of this ate into the saved profits from Bernie and Brett's time.

After extensive and unsuccessful canvassing in 2014 for a new volunteer editor a big decision had to be made – stop the paper or somehow cobble it together ourselves.

Regina and Kathy took themselves off to graphics training and downloaded training programs online. It was a very steep learning curve. They said they would do it for 6 months or until a new editor could be found. In April 2015, they produced their first edition and here they are in July 2018, still doing it.

Kathy and Regina estimate that it takes the editor at least 40 hours of individual volunteer time per month to put the paper together. Through all of this, Regina is still the secretary of the committee as well as co-editor.

They both think the work is well worth it as the paper is very popular and serves as a major conduit for community communication.

They are still looking for editorial help and Kathy isn't getting any younger!!

REDESDALE FIRE BRIGADE

On Sunday May 27th a large crowd attended the Redesdale Fire Brigade's AGM. Following the election of Office Bearers, Bill Johnstone Operations Manager for the North West Region presented the long service awards. Apart from acknowledging the role of the recipients over many years, the awards also represent the history of the Redesdale Brigade, from its earliest inception to the present day.

The local brigade was formed in January 1944 and it was then on January 1st that Brian James joined. This was recognized by the 70 year award with which he was presented. In receiving his medallion Brian contrasted the basic equipment and operational structures of those early days with the huge advances that have been made since that time for which he congratulated the current members for their work and dedication. As we sat in the depot, surrounded by the impressive range of equipment now accepted as mandatory in a modern fire fighting unit, one wonders just how many of Agnes Mudford's Saturday morning apple cakes would now be needed for such an enterprise

Life Membership and an award for 40-year membership were presented to Glen McGrath. Glen said that he was very proud to be a life member and that it was something that he had loved doing. Well done Glen for your sustained contribution over many years.

Other awards were made to Graham Newnham for 50 years, Bill Kriewaldt, 45, Brian Peterson 40 years, Lindsay Booker and Paul Atkins, Owen and Gaye Shannon 20 years followed by Ruth Booker, Jo Smith Sergeant, Andrew Brown and John Williams for 10 years.

Operations Manager Bill Johnstone took the chair during the election of office bearers and complimented Redesdale on the very high standard shown by our local brigade. History has now been made by the election of Michelle King to the position of 2nd lieutenant and it is pleasing to see more women joining our own fire-fighting group.

Heartfelt thanks must go to the Redesdale Café for the wonderful morning tea served at the meeting.

Redesdale Fire Brigade makes history with first female lieutenant

by Tahlia Campbell

On their last AGM, the Redesdale Fire Brigade made history when their first female lieutenant, Michelle King, stepped up to accept the position. Michelle, who joined the CFA shortly after moving to Redesdale, will take on the role of Second Lieutenant and Training Officer. Michelle feels very strongly about the Fire Brigade, believing that it was the best way for her to contribute to the community and keep it safe.

"As a female going into a very male-dominated environment, I'm really fortunate and really blessed to have so many mentors within the fire brigade, and so many leaders and members that have been so generous with their time and support." Michelle's experience in the brigade has been overwhelmingly positive, offering her opportunities to learn and do some good for her neighbours.

The Redesdale Fire Brigade has been active for 74 years, protecting our community and providing valuable service while being run solely by volunteers. This is the first time in the brigade that a woman will hold the title of lieutenant, making history for Redesdale.



Continued on next page

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From previous page:

"I actually didn't consider that part of it, and then I was a bit overwhelmed and felt pretty privileged to hold that position."

With a constant need for new recruits, Michelle's new role will inspire more women to join the brigade and show them what they could achieve. Anyone who is willing should be able to become a firefighter regardless of gender, and with more roles available within the brigade, there's something for everyone to do. Michelle believes the CFA is a great experience for anyone, and more women should look into applying.

"Any other women looking to join the brigade, they'd be very welcome and we'd really enjoy having them on board and part of the team."

The skills Michelle has learnt go beyond the practical; for her, it has been a very personal experience where she has learnt a lot about herself and grown from the challenges she's been faced with.

"Anybody who is considering it, I would encourage them to because there's just so many things that they can be a part of."

Chainsaw safety first

Recently, a group of Redesdale CFA members completed a chainsaw use/safety course. With many people now cutting firewood, I thought it would be timely to mention some of the safety points learned on that weekend.

Personal Protection Equipment. Basic safety gear including boots, chaps, gloves and definitely hearing and eye protection should be worn while using a saw.

Have a "Spotter". Have someone with you to look out for hazards, to clear the working area and to hand the saw to you when shifting location.

Use the Chain Brake. Always activate the chains braking system when starting the saw, while moving about and any time the saw is not being used for cutting.

Carrying the saw. When walking with the saw, have it turned off or have the chain brake activated. Point the blade behind you so that if you trip you don't fall onto it. And if getting over obstacles, like fences, place the saw on the other side first or hand it to your spotter.

Fuelling up. Do this at least 5 metres away from where you are working and will be starting the saw.

Use it low. Always use the saw at or below waist level, don't cut above your head.

Maintain the saw. Keep a well maintained and sharp saw. Most mishaps occur when the chain is blunt.

Avoid kick back. Touching the timber with the top part of the tip of the saw blade can cause the saw to be propelled back toward you.

For more information, feel free to visit the Fire Station on a Sunday morning to discuss with Redesdale CFA volunteers.

Andrew Campbell

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Redesdale Community Precinct Listening Post Friday 22nd June at the Redesdale Hall



Councillor George Flack, Mayor Margaret O'Rourke, Councillor Yvonne Wrigglesworth.

On behalf of the Detailed Design Working Group (DDWG), a big thank you to Councillors Mayor Margaret O'Rourke, Cr Yvonne Wrigglesworth, Cr George Flack and Mr Andrew Plant for sharing the precinct draft concept plans with the folks from Redesdale who attended the Listening Post on Friday. The draft concept master plan and hall upgrade drawings certainly has sparked some interest and many great ideas were shared. Keep a lookout for the next steps.

The DDWG has been working in the background to capture as much local input into these concept plans and want to thank those who have done this directly as part of the 'site user groups' interview process. It is clear that each group who utilise the facilities and site are passionate and keen to see the best is made of any site development that is made in the future.

The reserve and hall are for the whole community and despite the differences that are in the community regarding the best way to improve the site, we hope that these differences can be accommodated and do not distract from what is a wonderful opportunity to see our reserve attract more visitors and perhaps small business to the community.

More news to come in the near future.

From the DDWG.

Redesdale Ramblings:

Some South American Bulbs

South America is the home of some wonderful plants for our gardens – many of them are bulbs. Most people would recognise Hippeastrums as those incredibly large glossy, trumpet-shaped flowers which can look as if they are made of plastic. We don't have a lot of luck with growing them in the garden though there was a garden in Kyneton which had them flowering regularly till a few years ago. When they were first introduced to gardens in "the West" they were thought to be types of Amaryllis and are still called that in some parts of the world. They are very popular as indoor plants in the Europe and America where millions are sold as "ready to flower" bulbs which are simply potted up, watered and will bloom indoors during the winter!

Smaller relatives of these "hippies" are Rhodophiala. They produce short stems topped with up to half a dozen smaller trumpet flowers in the autumn. The variety that we find does very well here is Rhodophiala bifida which is available in orange-red, deep red and pink.



Rhodophiala bifida - deep red

En masse they can be quite effective and this year we had over a dozen flower at once. They love our climate – wet autumns and winters when they are in leaf and then dry during the summer when they are dormant. We've found the bulbs multiply quickly and they set seed easily if you have more than one clone in flower at once. We've crossed the pink and the red forms this year but will have to wait a few years to see what they produce.

There are a few other autumn flowering bulbs such as Ipheion sellowianum, a yellow flower related to the common blue "Spring Star Flower". We got our first plants from Geoff Wilson who sells plants at the Ferntree Gully Market. He asked us if we liked garlic and after driving in a small car with it we knew why – it positively reeks of a strong oniony smell! Fortunately in the garden you don't notice it at all.

The spring version, Ipheion uniflorum (which also can be white, mauve and purple) propagates very quickly and you can quickly get a carpet of them. They can be very attractive under deciduous trees – we've used them to encircle young trees in the garden and in rough grass. If you don't want them to spread too far remove the spent flowers to prevent seed production.

Probably the most common "bulb" from South America is actually a tuberous rooted perennial, the Peruvian Lily, Alstroemeria. In the Dandenongs the pale orange Alstroemeria aurea has been quite invasive but the modern hybrids, especially the dwarf "Princess" series are much better behaved and are safe for the garden. The strong red and deep pink forms are very good in the mixed border but some can be damaged by heavy frost so appreciate the protection of shrubs or larger perennials. In the rock garden one of the smaller, frost-hardy species, Alstroemeria

hookeri is very unobtrusive with low rosettes of fine foliage which elongate to about 6 in (15 cm) when producing their pale pink flowers in summer. We've tried a few other species from seed, the most stunning being Alstroemeria pulchra with dark markings at the tips of some petals but it was short lived. Another common species is the green-



Alstroemeria hookeri

tipped red flowering Alstroemeria pulchella (which used to be called A. psittacina) which can also spread quickly in light soils – in our heavy clay it hardly moves at all.

To my mind the most attractive bulb from South America is the "Chilean Blue Crocus", Tecophilea cyanocrocus, which is correct on two points, it is from Chile and it can be blue but it is not a crocus! It is very rare and was believed to be extinct in the wild though I've heard that some plants may have been discovered in a remote location.



Tecophilea cyanocrocus var *leitchlinii*

I've not had much success with it here but friends in Melbourne flower it very well. It produces thin grassy foliage in winter and in spring opens up blooms in the most stunning, gentian-blue with a small white centre. Tecophilea cyanocrocus var leitchlinii has a much bigger white centre and var. violacea has purple (or violet) coloured flowers. In places like Scotland they have been crossing them to produce new shades such as 'Storm Cloud'.

Cheers
Fermi de Sousa
The Redesdale Rock Gardener





Hello Dear Readers,

Lady Bombay with the latest winter treats. As the cold air has set in with the joy of much due rainfall, the chores of the garden still persevere.

The repetitious time of rose pruning has begun with the saying of cut on the Y, and do remember for those in the twin set and pearls club, lose the pearls as one can get terribly tangled. (Tick and Tick) Now you may remember from previous articles that I have found a bamboo

type plant for my front veranda which has flourished in growth far exceeding my expectations. As it has a fine leaf, I have decided to move it into the house to escape the frosts. Since then, foraging through a plant nurseries old stock section, I came across its sibling. Its horticultural name is Rader Machera Sinica most commonly known as the Asian Bell Tree. All the way from China if one needs to require its peerage and it grows up to three metres or 12 feet high. Note that I have given you both measurements for those of us in the old school. Thank heavens for high ceilings and a wood burner as it seems to be growing towards the skylight. I have been telling my friends that I have a tree growing in my lounge room and they don't seem surprised at all. Its almost like the Old Bat has another hair brained idea. I say go for the rainforest effect. Lord B has a rather perplexed look at me and my indoor plants. I think he is more worried about his Persian carpets getting stained.

During these months of dormancy, I tend to retreat to my library to browse through my quite significant collection of gardening books. They are a constant companion for these bleak days to let the mind

wander and become stimulated for spring. To those of you who say "I may not know it but I can easily google it", sheer laziness is all I can say. Its nearly impossible to do a crossword or trivia question without somebody using their phone or ipad for the quick fix of google. Needless to say that phones and ipads are left switched off at Mia Mia Manor.

Which reminds me, where is Thorn, the gardener? I can only hazard a guess that it will involve a quiet corner, a coffee and ipad and as he has another three hundred roses to prune, I'd best ring the triangle for his attention. That always gives him a fright. Definitely an evening for mother's ruin and a heat pad. Keep warm dears, Lady B

Tip:

Refrigerate grass seeds for a couple of days before sowing to encourage more vigorous growth.



TITBITS

Did you know...?

Sheep can detect other sheep faces in a way that humans do. Researchers claim they can remember up to 50 sheep faces.

A gozzard is a person who owns geese.

A parrot that shouts "Show us your t*ts!" at women on board a Royal Navy Ship is always taken ashore during royal visits.

Finches practise songs in their sleep.

One in three dog owners say they have talked to their dogs on the phone.

95% of the creatures on earth are smaller than a chicken egg.

Goats have rectangular pupils.

Lions are the only cats that live in packs.

A chicken's top speed is 14.5 km per hour.

Bombay and a Bex

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

Dear Lady B,

I am most distraught. The builders working on the front of my house have destroyed my very old azalea hedge.

As they have no concept of gardening or what a plant looks like, and as I have gently reminded them to be mindful of my plants, it seems to go on deaf ears or its just in the way. How do I prevent any further damage to the garden as they will be here for a while?

Dahlia Desperate

Dear DD,

Police tape is the answer. I am sure that you can get something like it at the hardware. Wrap it around your most precious plants with a large "Crime Scene" sign displayed. Your builders should get the message. Most importantly, make a puddle of tomato sauce below the tape. If queried as what has happened, simply tell them this is what happened to the last builder, it's blood! And make sure they have plenty of insurance.

All the best my dear,

Lady Sapphire Bombay



Your Health! with Dr Tim

Can you believe it...

Endometriosis is a quite unique condition amongst the vast array of diseases of the human body. Endometriosis occurs where the endometrial lining cells of the uterus spread and grow outside of the normal anatomical boundaries - and when I explain it like that - it sort of sounds like cancer - and I am sure that sufferers would agree there are similarities with the common associations with the cancer - it's often a painful condition, difficult to treat, requiring often multiple surgeries or ongoing medication, and can have a profound impact on the enjoyment of day to day life.

The difference though is that endometriosis is caused by "normal" endometrial cells - they are "just" growing where they should not be. But of course endometrial cells don't "just" grow - they also disintegrate and shed - every month - in response to the normal cycle of hormones from the ovaries. The resulting collection of cellular debris anywhere else other than in the uterus can be irritative and lead to long term complications of scarring and cyst formation. This is then the dilemma for doctors and patients - how to diagnose and treat a condition which is an otherwise completely normal physiological process, occurring in the wrong part of the body.

The best test for diagnosis is laparoscopy and biopsy, under anaesthetic removing abnormal tissue from inside the pelvis and sending it to the pathologist for examination. But how do you get to the point of deciding to do that when the pain of endometriosis is often put down to just "bad period pain"? What even is a normal period? Everyone is different - correct?

Well that's certainly true but there are a number of general rules that indicate the possibility of something abnormal. Consider firstly pain - is it mild enough that you can get rid of it with paracetamol or other over-the-counter pain relief? Or is it persistent and prevents you getting on with normal activities? Consider also the amount of menstrual flow during your period. If it is flow that requires frequent change of tampons or pads through the day, or if there are large clots then this is something you should discuss further with your doctor. If however the flow is dark and requires only a few changes through the

day then it is much less likely that something abnormal is happening. Your flow will change through the course of your period - sometimes it is useful to keep a diary of exactly how long your period lasts, how often you are changing sanitary products, what the flow looks like - is it dark or bright red, are there clots, and is there associated pain?

Once you have got to the stage of considering that perhaps your periods are abnormal and have spoken to your doctor, the question arises as to what can be done next. Doing scans or blood tests unfortunately is unlikely to give results that confirm a diagnosis of endometriosis. Laparoscopy as already mentioned is the best way to investigate - it also enables access to physically remove the endometriosis wherever it is in the pelvis - and thereby effectively treat the problem. Sounds simple huh? Well no - in fact some endometriosis is microscopic - so that even when looking at it directly with the laparoscope it is invisible. That is why the simple approach to treatment - the healthy lifestyle options, or pain relief as needed, or using the contraceptive pill, or using a combination of all of these approaches, is the best way to treat "endo" for some women.

It would be really nice to have some information to give about how to prevent it occurring in the first place - but sadly there is no good information to give on this subject - we simply don't know why some women have it. It is estimated indeed that up to 10% of Australian women will be affected by it at some stage through their lives. We do know that factors such as family history of endometriosis in female relatives, or prolonged menstruation or more frequent periods can increase the risk of developing endometriosis in individuals. This is an area of research that would be well worth an investment of more time and energy.

Whether it's working towards prevention in the research field, or treatment - the first step is diagnosis - so have a talk about seeing a gynaecologist if your periods are troubling you - it's a truism that needs repeating often - you can't fix what you don't know about.

Dr Tim Stobie 5422 1397



Saturday 6th – Sunday 7th October 2018 – Heathcote Wine and Food Festival - The Heathcote Wine and Food Festival has grown over the 16 years since its inception, along with the wine region's reputation. International awareness of the Heathcote brand owes as much to the modern pioneers of the industry in the region as it does to today's winemakers and vigneron. The Heathcote Wine and Food Festival is your chance to be among the first to sample new release wines from the Heathcote region and learn more about wines that have recently achieved success in international and national

in the Heathcote Region

awards as well as the Saint Martin Heathcote Wine Show. The Heathcote Showgrounds are transformed into a stunning family-friendly village setting in the days leading up to festival celebrations, a contrast to the first festival featuring a handful of wineries in the courtyard of a local restaurant.

Wednesday 17th October 2018- Engine Room – Melbourne Chamber Orchestra Time: 8pm. Cost \$10.00. Venue to be advised.

Redesdale Recreational Reserve Committee Inc. Chairman's Monthly Report July 2018

Hi Redesdalians,

Not much to report regarding the reserve other than the rock walls at Lyall Rd corner are progressing slowly.

I would like to inform those community members who were unable to attend the 2018 Community Plan meeting of the suggestions that were made by the community for the reserve,

- A rebound wall for children.
- The tennis clubrooms to be renovated and air-conditioning fitted.

This is quite achievable but requires financing and manpower to achieve these outcomes. As the rebound wall will require an engineering submission to CoGB, it will make the project quite expensive. As for the clubroom renovations I would imagine this would be a collaborative exercise between the Tennis Club and the RRRC of management on ways to achieve this project.

As I said at the start of this report - there wasn't much to report on! Well this is it but remember "a community that works together achieves together".

Keep smiling until next time.

Les Pocock

Redesdale Recreational Reserve Committee Inc

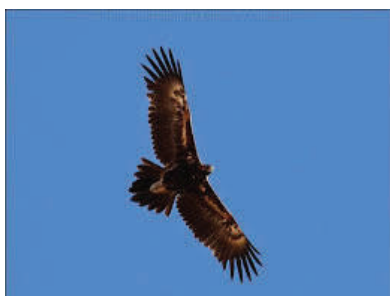


Eagles over the lambing paddock

a poem by

Ernest G Moll

*The business of lambing ewes would make me
At times a trifle sick. The strain and quiver
Of life just squeezed past death to stand and shiver
Wet in the cold on wobbly legs would shake me
With pity for these accidents of lust,
Sometimes with mere disgust.
But I would watch the wedge-tailed eagle wheeling
In skies as biting blue as ocean spaces,
Great wing above the messy commonplaces
Of birth and death and the weak sprawl of feeling;
And coolly then would flow through heart and brain
Respect for life again.*



Little Treasures

We are continuing to invite stories 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.

Here is a delightful contribution from local resident Sue Brown:

Mikiphone-Biography

This was my Grandfathers, then my fathers and finally given to me. It's a portable wind up Gramophone and it all fits into a small tin casing. Grand Dad used to take it with him when he and Granny would take picnics alongside the Yarra in the 1920s. German in origin, it still works today and plays 78's. I looked after it very carefully as a kid. My little sisters were not allowed to play with it.





By Kerry Anderson

Why wait for adversity?

Adversity is a great breeding ground for entrepreneurs. We see it all the time. Someone suddenly loses their job and starts their own business. A major employer closes down and even more people go into business. Once our regular income is taken away we suddenly have nothing to lose and are willing to step out of our comfort zone and do something that we've previously only dreamed of. Two questions come to mind. Why are we waiting for adversity before we take positive action? And why aren't we doing this as a community rather than just as individuals?

I want to pay homage to the communities who understand the power of collaboration and preparing long before any hardship hits. Experience has demonstrated to me that those communities are far better equipped to weather a storm.

In April 2016 the 'dairy crisis' hit a number of rural communities when Murray Goulburn and Fonterra delivered the gut wrenching news to farmers that they were dropping their milk price payments. This created a situation where the cost of caring for and milking their cows was greater than the return farmers would receive. And it wasn't only dairy farmers feeling the pain. With lost incomes comes a general downturn in business and a spiral effect across their whole community.

No rural community can avoid these upturns and downturns but some are better equipped than others.

Cohuna rallied far more quickly than other communities. Since 2013 they had been actively participating in the Operation Next Gen program, a community led conversation empowering emerging leaders to create new business opportunities. They've also introduced new events to engage their youth and encourage tourism. It is hardly

coincidental that local accommodation houses are reporting the highest ever occupancy rates.

When the dairy crisis hit Cohuna, local photographer, Shayne Mostyn, convinced his Melbourne based partner to bring their new night photography workshops to the town. 'It's only eight people each month but it is eight people that weren't coming before,' Shayne says. 'They come and use the local accommodation and spend their money in town.'

By the time the dairy crisis hit it was a natural reaction for the Cohuna community to ask: What can we do to help ourselves? Individuals were empowered to take positive action. Defying the closure of other milk processing plants in the region, two local business people have recently launched a bid to build a new \$130 million milk processing plant aptly named No Bull.

Communities that understand the value of local leadership and a collaborative approach are able to take advantage of opportunities and weather the storm.

So, why are we waiting for things to go wrong when we could be actively looking for opportunities now?

www.kerryanderson.com.au

PHOTO CREDIT: Shayne Mostyn Photography, Cohuna



HALL HAPPENINGS

With Norma Barker

Well our Revellers have packed away their costumes for another year. Our Revellers season of 5 nights entertained over 500 people which was again a great turnout for their 30th year.

Thanks go to all involved with the staging of the events, with a very special thankyou to Dorothea Kriewaldt who has dressed the stage and surrounds for 30 years, and this has always looked a picture and added a great deal to the events.

Our 'Biggest Morning Tea' for the Cancer Council (see right) raised \$525.75. We had visitors from the Royal Freemasons Aged Care in Flora Hill, who enjoyed the morning tea and the entertainment by the schoolchildren of Redesdale Mia Mia Primary School. Because the RMMPS has such a small number of pupils it seems like a small family. It is lovely to see the older children assisting the younger ones in the reading of their poems. Thanks, kids! Hope to see you all next year!

Cookery Class.

Our next cookery class is to be "Scones" and will be held on Sun. 22nd of July at 1pm at the Redesdale Hall.

Cost is \$10.00 per person. Please contact me at 54253174 to register.

Places are limited!



RECIPE OF THE MONTH 33

Greek inspired lamb Risotto



From Sarah Trezise:

Risotto is a beautiful dish to cook. I find it very relaxing to cook and it is a dish reliant on the addition of love. Don't cook it if you are in a bad mood, it will come out tasting like old socks.

INGREDIENTS

- 3 cups chicken stock
- 1 cup white wine
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 1 brown onion, finely chopped
- 1 zucchini, finely chopped
- 1 ½ cups arborio rice
- 3 cloves of garlic, finely chopped
- 400g lamb barbecue chops
- One Lemon – Zest only
- One lemon - juice
- 100g Meredith Goats Cheese (or any soft cheese really but Goats adds the "tang")
- ½ cup Parmesan Cheese
- Dried or fresh oregano

METHOD

1. Marinate the lamb chops in a small bit of olive oil, half the lemon juice and oregano for half an hour.
2. Place stock and wine in a large saucepan. Bring to the boil then simmer till needed.
3. Heat half the oil in a saucepan over medium heat. Cook zucchini, onion and garlic, stirring, for 3 minutes or until tender. Add rice. Stir for 1 minute or until rice becomes translucent. Add 1/3 cup stock. Stir for 3 to 4 minutes or until stock has absorbed. Repeat with remaining stock, 1/3 cup at a time, until all liquid has absorbed, and rice is tender and creamy (this process takes no longer than 25 minutes so keep an eye on the time you commenced and just add 25 minutes). Season with salt and pepper and the lemon zest and stir.
4. Whilst you are doing the risotto, heat a chargrill pan over medium-high heat and add the lamb chops. Cook for 5 minutes each side or until cooked to your liking (don't over cook). Transfer to a plate. Cover with foil. Set aside for 5 minutes then roughly chop and include the bones.
5. Add chopped up lamb and bones to finished Risotto, garnish with Meredith Goats Cheese and Parmesan Cheese and remaining lemon juice. Drizzle a little olive oil over each dish if you like also.

Thank you, Sarah!

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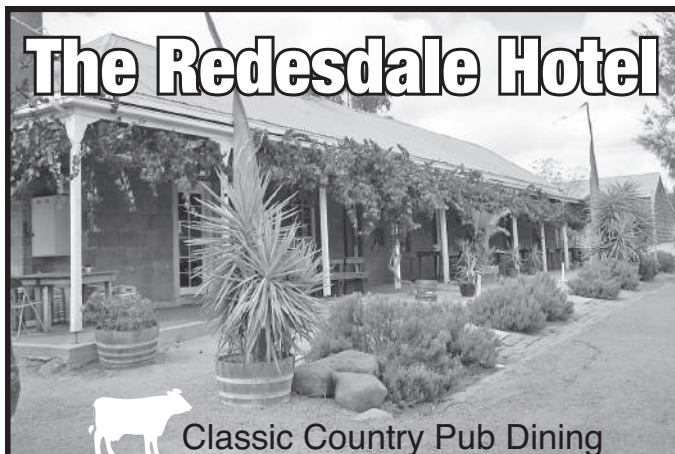
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Letter to the Editor

PLEASE NOTE:

Views expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily the views of the publisher of The Bridge Connection.

Dear Kathy and Regina,

When we won 'The Bridge Abroad' competition in September 2016, we were quite pleased and excited...and rather proud of our photo. Little did we know that our prize of a weekend in a lovely cabin in Moama would change our lives!

As many may know, when we sold the farm in Mia Mia in 2000, we retired to Torquay - a beach change we'd been talking about for years (back then Torquay was a little beach town). As mentioned, our Moama accommodation was lovely, as was the weather. We were enjoying standing on our deck, feeding the fish and ducks, listening to the kookaburras and smelling the gum trees, when we just looked at one another and knew/decided we wanted to be back in a rural setting. So, we returned to Torquay and put our place up for sale. We chose to move to the Albury area (Thurgoona is a northern suburb of Albury), as everything is here that one could need, and we were a bit familiar with the area from our days of racing dragon boats. We made the move in July of 2017 and rented while our home was being built, then we moved into our new home in October.

This is the best move we've ever made -- and it's all your fault, Bridge Connection!

Cheers,

George and Sharon Marshall, Thurgoona

Continued from page 22:

Wider social issues for advocacy included support for road and traffic safety, pedestrian and cycle safety, protection of forests areas, indigenous recognition and revegetation.

The changes that were suggested for future consideration to build stronger connected community included activities that enable community members to connect and build unity, stronger connections with Mia Mia, including development of a walking path, consolidation of community committees and upgrading sporting infrastructure.

Respondents used a range of words to describe their ideal community in three main themes:

Peaceful/caring/happy

Friendly/welcoming /supportive/inclusive

Connected/collaborative/tolerant

Priorities for the new community plan included upgrades for the Hall kitchen, promoting tourism, precinct development and upgrade to facilities and opportunities for connection, and activities to support older people.

Lyn Talbot, City of Greater Bendigo, Strong Communities Officer

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Letter to the Editor

PLEASE NOTE:

Views expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily the views of the publisher of The Bridge Connection.

Dear Editors,

The letter from S.K.Arnall is a clear indication that some (many?) in the community do not understand the nature of the arrangements under which the Redesdale Hall Committee carries out its function.

This lack of understanding has led her to unfairly criticise the committee and accuse it of 'protecting autocratic status by not actively inviting membership to all'. She also asserts that the committee is neither representative nor democratic, - nothing could be further from the truth.

Some explanation and clarification is required.

The Redesdale Hall sits on Crown Land and is owned by the State Government through DELWP. It is not owned by The City of Greater Bendigo.

The Redesdale Hall Committee is a properly constituted, incorporated and autonomous body which meets, and complies with, all the legal requirements placed upon it. That body holds a long-term, exclusive access lease on the building negotiated with DELWP. The committee is not a public committee and in its operation is answerable only to DELWP and then only to the extent that the lease requires. It is not a concern of DELWP, nor anyone else for that matter, whether there are 9 or 99 on the committee - that is a matter for the committee alone to decide.

Under the terms of the lease the committee is responsible for all costs associated with the running of the hall including maintenance, repair, improvements, additions, and permits etc. The committee also pays all the power bills, buys all the equipment - tables, chairs, fridges, freezers, and repairs and maintains that equipment. As the building is not owned by The City of Greater Bendigo there is no expenditure of a material nature from the municipality, although in very recent times some help has been given with insurance costs.

That the hall is the envy of many a community in the district is testament to the outstanding job the committee has done over many years and there are many in the district who will vouch for that.

The committee does indeed 'understand the due processes of their position', and carries them out correctly without the assistance (and intervention) of the Bendigo Council, which S.K.Arnall thinks is required.

I have some advice for S.K.Arnall: If you really want to be part of a group to successfully run the hall and do all the hard work necessary to maintain the set standard, then forget the community splitting tactics and do one of two honourable things ...

1. Step forward and present your case with logic, reason, and persuasion, or... 2. Step back and wait until 2033 when the lease expires and you will get the chance to apply.

There will be many in the district - not only Redesdale residents - who will agree with my view that the Hall Committee is an outstanding example of small community energy, co-operation, and volunteering for the benefit of all.

**John Barker
Redesdale**

Letter to the Editor

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Dear Editors

There has been a significant increase in the amount of rubbish being tossed on to the road sides. Not only is there a plethora of cans, bottles and litter around all roads, but near the roundabout at Racecourse Road there are the contents of a small house. This includes foil and insulation, white goods, and furniture.

Often cars pull into the area on the Sutton Grange side of the roundabout or close to the river at Gibbons Bridge and dump a weekend's worth of household rubbish. I have found garbage bags of rotting food, fridges, mattresses and dirty nappies, which if not picked up will run into our waterways.

One thing local residents can do is download an app called SNAP SEND SOLVE. This is a free app and enables you to take a photo of the issue, in this case rubbish, and using your location it will send an email to the appropriate local council. It is very simple to use and hopefully will get the council moving on removing rubbish from the roadsides. Let's clean up Redesdale and report illegal waste dumping!

You can report illegal dumping to EPA Victoria by contacting 1300 372 842 (1300 EPA VIC).

What is illegal waste dumping?

Illegal dumping is the deliberate or unauthorised dumping, tipping or burying of waste on land that is not licensed or fit to accept that waste. Illegal dumping can threaten wildlife and can also lead to long-term contamination of land, waterways and groundwater, particularly when the waste is from an industrial source or contaminated soil.

Waste dumped near residents can contribute to an unsightly environment that looks and feels unsafe. It is a lost opportunity to reuse dumped materials.

Illegal dumping can range in scale from a single bag of household rubbish to large household items such as TVs, appliances and electronic waste, furniture, mattresses, industrial wastes, construction and demolition materials, garden waste, packaging, tyres, old cars and soil.

The illegal dumping of contaminated fill material, tyres, manufacturing, construction and demolition waste is an indictable offence, and can attract a maximum court penalty of \$610,700 or seven years imprisonment for an individual, and more than \$1.2 million for a corporation.

**Nic James
Redesdale**

Letter to the Editor

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Dear Editors,

In reference to the unfortunate letter to the Editor of the Midland Express (May 15th) written by Mr John Barker and the excellent reply provided by S.K. Arnall in the Bridge Connection (June 2018), I would like to add some further dimension to the issues.

That 40 proxies were gathered surely shows that there is an appetite for some change to the Hall Committee, whatever that may be. In the 2016 Census, there were 211 adults living in the Redesdale district, of whom almost 20% showed an interest in joining the Hall Committee. If you extrapolate this number and assume that at least one of the partners/friends/adult children of each applicant would have voted for each of those who submitted proxies, then at least 40% of the eligible population believe that some change is needed.

That none of the proxies was a formal Member of the Association (in this case the Redesdale Hall Committee) is one thing, but to deride them as 'smug' and 'dopes' as Mr Barker wrote in his letter, is appalling. After all, copies of the "Model Rules for an Incorporated Association" are not readily available. Perhaps the Editors might like to include the Model Rules pertaining to Membership in this paper. They can be found in Part 3, Division 1, Clauses 7, 8, 9 and 10

I can only hope that each of the proxies now writes to the Hall Committee and expresses their wish to join as Members, as is their right. Now, the Rules of Association which the Hall Committee must follow, clearly state that applications for Membership must be discussed at the next ordinary meeting. The Rules also say that the Committee can refuse any application without having to provide a reason. Therein lies the problem so well covered by S.K. Arnall in his/her letter.

The population of Redesdale is growing steadily. Change is inevitable and should be welcomed. From the day we arrived in Redesdale we have loved it. From Day 1 it was our home. We have many friends, and support the businesses in the town. We also support well planned and organised change that adds to the amenity of our town. My wife and I have both served on the RRRC, and appreciate the various factions, differences of opinion and backgrounds of the population. To characterise people who have chosen to move to live in Redesdale, whether it was yesterday or 10 years ago, as being less worthy than those who have been here for 20 years or more as 'wanting to take over the running of things, and change things to their version of what's better' (Midland Express, May 15) and those wanting to add to the amenity and expertise of the community as 'smug' and 'dopes' (Midland Express, May 15) is an appalling characterisation of all of us, new or old.

I thank the editors of the Bridge Connection for bringing this matter to my attention in the current June issue.

**Simon Hills
Redesdale**

Dear Editors,

The Redesdale Hall Committee Inc. would like to acknowledge and give a big thank you to City of Greater Bendigo employee Mark O'Sullivan who for many years now has done a wonderful job in maintaining Redesdale and its surrounds, particularly at the Agnes Mudford Reserve. Mark continues to work tirelessly for our community above and beyond his job requirements which include mowing, brush cutting, pruning, spraying and picking up rubbish, etc. Well done Mark - you certainly keep our town looking neat and welcoming!

Redesdale Hall Committee Inc.

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Redesdale and District Association Update

The District Association committee is currently working to produce the updated community plan. This process has involved a review of the 2013 plan, a community survey and a community meeting held at the school on Sunday 27th May. The District Association was formed in 2012 to perform this task, as well as to create a website, act as a conduit to council and other groups and to promote social interaction. Since inception, the committee has consisted of representatives from each of the other main town committees and from the school and CFA. Those interested are referred to the November 2017 Edition 90 page 19 for the current committee members. If you have lost your copy, it can be found on the redesdale.net website.

The results of the survey can now be found on the Redesdale website (redesdale.net) in a document called "Background to the 2018 Redesdale Community Plan". A summary of the results of the survey can be found below. It is hoped that the 2018 Community Plan will be ready to be launched at the next District Association AGM on September 20th.

Redesdale Survey summary

Most of the people who responded were local to the area and were full-time residents, as distinct from a few who live most of the time out of the area.

There was a range of time for which the people have lived/had a link in Redesdale, ranging from 68 years to 1.5 years.

People valued the local people's sense of community and their links with others. A number of respondents highlighted the energy and willingness of community members to volunteer and the range of local events and activities. However a number also identified a perceived lack of unity.

If they could change one thing, respondents identified their wish for closer unity and cohesiveness between community groups, with perhaps fewer committees. Other desires included a swimming pool, a 'better' general store or a move to Mt Alexander shire.

Most respondents feel closely connected in their local neighbourhood. They are able to learn what's happening local and have a sense of people working together for common purposes. There was a spread of responses about peoples' desire to be more in local community activities.

Many people had not been affected by emergency events, but fire has affected many others. Road safety was another concern expressed. Most respondents feel well-prepared to deal with fire and have a fire management plan, but somewhat less have discussed their plan with neighbours. Most people didn't think there would be a problem to leave their property in an emergency, but personal health and pets were the main barriers, as well as access and egress.

The Bridge Connection and word of mouth, local notices and Midland Express are the main sources of information about community events and activities.

While about 60% of respondents expressed familiarity with the previous community plan, there is still a fairly high number who are not aware. People identified the footpath, community hub feasibility study, the defibrillator and upgrades at the Rec Reserve as successes with the previous community plan.

70% of respondents felt more social events would be beneficial, with strong support for recurring events, occasional and informal events and events sponsored by Council.

There is strong support for more local social activities – generally all of the types of activities that are currently offered in Redesdale are supported positively. There was also support for Christmas Carols, attracting new businesses and yoga/pilates.

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Continued on page 20

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