

Merrijig Matters

Merrijig's Monthly Newsletter

April 2014

Issue No. 12

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Quote of the month

**You Can't FORCE a person
to show you RESPECT
but you can REFUSE to be
DISRESPECTED**

Author unknown

Can you believe this is issue # 12

The first Merrijig Community newsletter came out in May 2013 as I waited for the news of the Anzac Day ride and the presentation of cheques to the beneficiaries from Rodeo profits.

I am still enjoying putting this together and very pleased that the mailing list has grown from the original 60 odd to more than 150 with this issue.

Many people choose to catch up via the uploaded version on merrijig.com.au thanks to **Louise Jacob** and **Steve Thompson** who take care of that side of the publication. This web area of publication is actually where what we do today goes down in history as one of our readers **John Steele** pointed out. So far there has been one year's worth of stories from Merrijig's community history stored for future reference if ever someone needs to again research life in Merrijig.

Yet this is not the main reason for the newsletter, it is to keep people with an interest in Merrijig in touch with what is going on in the district, socially primarily, to help to build a strong community bond. I believe it's working as I have met some wonderful people new to the district because of it, as I hope you have done too.

The idea was born out of the Mansfield Shire Council's community action plan led by **Kirsten Lindgard** and **Sue Arndt**, when, after a meeting **Judy Kirkham** suggested to me, (as I am a writer), that I could bring out a monthly newsletter. Initially I was not keen on the idea as I liked the freedom of being able to travel when I choose to. But an email version allowed for that as well and I warmed to the idea. I love the way people WANT to be involved in sharing their news each month and I would encourage more to do so as it opens doors to easy conversations when you meet up to discuss what others have read about.

It's your newsletter.

Feedback is back

Hi Adele,

Thanks for the newsletter. What a great read.

Good luck with the Rodeo. This will be our fourth one and we wouldn't miss it for the world.

We are going to Alby's living wake and the Dinning Out group's Mill Inn night as a result of reading your excellent newsletter.

Best regards,
Steve Chiodo.

And

You do a fantastic job with the newsletter Adele . I love reading it .
Cheers The Websters

Back issues of the newsletters can be viewed on the web at
http://www.merrijig.com.au/html/local_news.html

**Some articles in this newsletter may be picked up
by the Mansfield Courier so consider this if you
are submitting stories you could be sensitive about sharing
with the community wider than Merrijig.**

If you're looking for a **Justice of the Peace**, here are our two local JPs:

Dale Daly, Timbertop School
Laurie Jacob, Buttercup Rd

5733 6777
0439 280 333

April 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Muscle group at the hall 10am	2 Clean up Mansfield Day	3 Stitching group at the hall 11am	4	5 BBq lunch meeting re Merrijig Fun day Friend Changie Rd update Mirimbah Store 2pm
6	7	8 Muscle group at the hall 10am Trivia at the Pub	9 Dining out Mob 6:30 The old Fire Station Restaurant	10 Stitching group at the hall 11am	11	12
13 Hall shed working bee and clearing sale followed by BBQ lunch.	14 Community Transport meeting Merrijig Hall 6pm	15 Muscle group at the hall 10am	16	17 Stitching group at the hall 11am	18	19 Live Music at the Pub from 8:30 Dean Prichard Blues/soul
20	21	22 Muscle group at the hall 10am Trivia at the Pub	23 Dining out Mob 6:30 Restaurant yet to be selected	24 Stitching group at the hall 11am	25  ANZAC day at 5 Pines Plantation Buller/Buttercup Rd 7:30	26 Live Music at the Pub from 8:30 Joh Luke Shelley Blues/rock
27	28	29 Muscle group at the hall 10am	30			

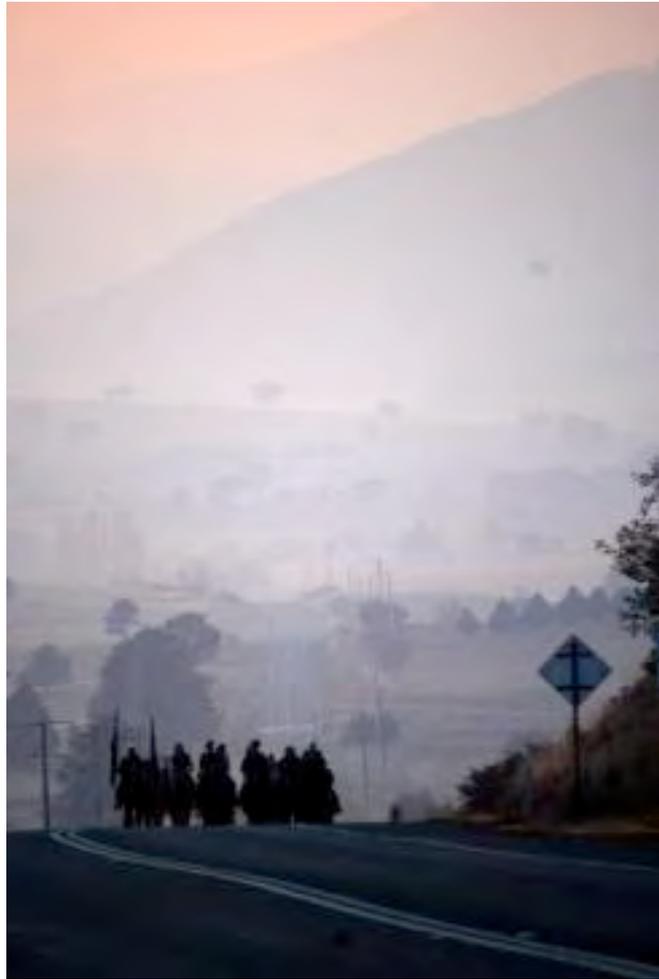


ANZAC Day Friday 25th of April

The horses and riders will meet at **6:30am** then move off from the pub car park at **7am** arriving at the top of Buttercup Road at the site of the 'Five Pines Plantation' for a reflective acknowledgement of the service to our country, given by those past and present at around **7:30am**. This site chosen by Merrijig locals long before the RSL was established is once again due to this dawn ride, relevant to Merrijig people in its 7th year.



Photo from the first ANZAC day ride in 2008, Paul Jackson played the last post seated on Redgum watched by Leslie Dunlop bearing the Australian flag.



Some great photo opportunities on a crisp morning. Photo by Adele McCormack

If you have a family member who served at any time, you are welcome to place a rock in acknowledgement of that persons call to duty. On the rock you can write their name, number, rank and division along with any other details you care to add. There will be time allocated for the placement of these rocks under the pine trees so that this special spot in Merrijig is still significant today as it was when it was designated for a memorial plantation.



Ailish & Erin Lunam standing next to their great grandfathers rocks

This is a very moving and important tribute to the people who helped to keep Australia safe.

In special acknowledgement of the consistent support of this ride up the Merrijig Valley in honour of the ANZAC's by Russell Prendergast (Budda) who died following a motorbike accident early this year, his friends will be placing a rock bearing his name. Due to the respect he showed for those who served, they feel his rock can join them.

Following the formalities attendees are invited to wander across the road and partake of a BBQ gunfire breakfast with the horse riders and other participants. The funds raised from breakfast sales this year will go to maintenance of the plantation site.

Who's doing what lately?

Young Genna Clark, has been selected to perform in 'A Midsummer Night's Dream' in April with The Australian Shakespeare Company.

Since February her parents Gabe and Mick Clark of Country Wide Auto Repairs (my trusty mechanics) have been taking Genna to Melbourne twice a week for rehearsals. Genna is so keen that she learned two monologs for the audition off her own bat then was helped with the presentation by our Merrijig local **Sandy McKinnon**. "Sandy was her director in The Twelfth Night in which she played the part of Viola and that's what inspired her to go for this part," Gabe informed me. Following Genna's audition, excitement ruled, as she was given the part and has over the weeks of rehearsals said she has learned so much from this amazing theatre company.

She will be in the performance at the **Athenaeum Theatre**, 188 Collins Street, Melbourne on Thursday, April 10 & Friday, April 11, 2014 at 2 pm then again on Saturday, April 12, 2014 at 10 am and 2 pm.



You may recall that Genna was chosen as Mansfield Shire 'Young Citizen of the Year' on Australia day.

Her proud mum said. "She loves acting and loves to give everything a go; she is not sure what she wants to do after High School but is heading toward Law at the moment."

I can only imagine how thrilled she and her family must be, what a fantastic start to the year it is for Genna in 2014. Indications are that this young lady will be going far if her determination to achieve continues.

What are the Jacob's up to in London?



Well they have actually been doing a bit of touring around this last month. Laurie is pictured here in a very short bathroom doorway at the Nag's Head Hotel at Weston Turville - yes the spelling is correct! Weston Turville is a one and a half hour's drive east of Turville. (Go figure!).

They were visiting Turville which is the town used in the filming of the British television series, *The vicar of Dibley*.



The Vicarage as frequented by Dawn French - actually called Old Beams Cottage



They visited Stonehenge in Wiltshire where they were able to wander around at their own pace with audio tours handsets explaining more about the stones



Laurie and Louise also visited some friends in Hampshire and on the way stayed at a lovely B & B at Lyndhurst where they could walk out the door into the New Forest populated by 'wild ponies' called New Forest Ponies which are owned by the Queen.



They have also taken in Wales and Matlock in Derbyshire which is in the Midlands (not Woods Point way! Tis view across the Wye River valley shows that Matlock is somewhat more populated than our Matlock!

The owner of the property they look after is due back and it will be Laurie and Louise's first opportunity to meet her before they head homeward. They visited Bletchley Park - the headquarters of the WW1 British code breakers which was a secret until 1974, was fascinating they said. And a few days later they want to Chiswick House not far from where they live in Kensington. Then it's the long trip home again following a few days in Singapore they are no doubt looking forward to landing on Aussie soil again (at Melbourne Airport) on Thursday morning April 3rd. Those little magnets called grandchildren will be pulling them back home rather smartly!

Judy and Fritz 'do' Disneyworld

Judy writes: Our trip to Orlando, Florida, can only be explained as an experience we will never forget! We have some great memories of our four weeks away, some we wish to remember, others not. We got off to a bad start at Melbourne Airport, not being able to leave Australia because the Immigration Department had mucked up details on Fritz's new passport. By the time the necessary alterations were made we had missed our flight to L.A. and had to get another flight via Sydney where we had to go through the same procedure again. Then on to L.A. where once again we had to explain the problem and get the OK to continue on. Having missed our original flight from Melbourne we were put on a flight to Atlanta (where the hell is that we thought) where we then had to catch an internal flight to Orlando. Those airports are so bloody huge you need a GPS to navigate your way around, thank heavens for a helpful passenger getting on the same flight. We finally arrived in Orlando 26 hours after leaving Melbourne, totally knackered!!!

We were met by Fritz's sister who owns a lovely holiday house where we were staying - comfort at last. Fritz's family, being mad Theme Parks enthusiasts had our program set out for us and with little time to recover from our flight we were off to Disney World with its many parks, and from then on we remained in constant awe of all and lost in a fantasy world. Rollercoasters, I decided after the first ride, were not my cup of tea though. We spent many days and nights visiting as many theme parks as we could before finally admitting defeat and felt the benefit of relaxing in the comfortable temperatures beside the pool reading (conversation was limited, as was my German, although did manage to communicate a little giving much hilarity) By then I had developed a skin allergy to the orange blossom, which apparently is quite prevalent, so scratching madly became a pastime and remained so until I returned home.

Orlando is the home of Theme Parks and huge shopping outlets and I mean huge! They are a city within themselves - fortunately my fear of getting lost was greater than my desire to spend lots of money, although I do confess I did indulge somewhat, the temptation being too great.

Kennedy Space Centre at Cape Canaveral on the west coast was most interesting and to actually see the retired space shuttle Atlantis gave one a true sense of how special it was, being part of history. Whilst most of our time was spent in Florida I can actually say we went from America's east to west, even stepping into the Atlantic Ocean in Coco Beach. Taking a tour on the everglades in an airboat allowed us to see some of the wildlife of Florida, including of course a few alligators and snakes much nastier than ours. A flight over Orlando enabled me to see how huge the highways were, the landscape not at all what I imagined, being mostly swamp and lots and lots of water.

Alas our final days were marred by the fact that we missed our flight back home! Yep got the dates mixed up - we were still relaxing by the pool in Florida when we should have been on the plane home from L.A. - guess that says how much we were enjoying ourselves. Anyway after buying two more tickets home (ouch) we thought we may as well see the sights of L.A. before returning, staying in Hollywood for a couple of nights before returning.

But I can say “mission accomplished” because a special request from one of my granddaughters was to get Mickey Mouse’s autograph!



Mickey Mouse and Judy

Australian Boys’ Choir performed in Mansfield at the end March to a packed PAC with Jem Herbert (*a Merrijig boy, featured in the newsletter previously*) performing a solo part in their last song, much to the delight of his home town audience.

The first half of the show saw performances by the choirs from our district schools, Steiner, St Mary’s, Mansfield, Timbertop and Lauriston. The show included a wonderful variety of light well-performed songs and a promise of a long happy musical future for our area. All choirs joined the Australian Boys Choir on stage for the last number and I thought it was lovely to see Jem in his Choir uniform sharing his music with his little brother Mattie who was in the Mansfield Choir.

Who remembers Robbie McCulloch ?

Robbie was a wonderful friendly fellow who was resident in what was known as “the Forestry House” on the river side of Mt Buller Road just before the turn off to Mt Stirling at Mirimbah.



Photo supplied by Wendy Walsh

During his working life he was in charge of the workshop on Mt Buller and kept such precise records of who took what tools and equipment and even what the workers claimed they needed for what job, that not one piece of equipment ever went missing, I am told, when he was responsible.

During the summertime he was the fire watch officer on Mt Buller, who incidentally trained Chris Deutscher who was featured in a recent newsletter clocking up 38 years on the job.

As still happens today, there were free drinks for the locals at the Hunt Club Hotel in Merrijig on Christmas day and as Robbie was always working in the fire watch tower on that day he devised a system of wishing everyone at the pub a happy Christmas. At a specific time everyone at the pub would go outside and look towards Mt Buller and wait till Robbie could get a mirror in just the right spot to catch the sun, so it would flash his greeting to his friends, waiting for his message in Merrijig. He was affectionately known as the Mt Buller Flasher - for this reason only. During the winter Robbie was in charge of the traffic control office at Mirimbah - the entrance to Mt Buller.

The staff he managed in the work shop and at the Mirimbah ticket office, ‘knew’ him as ‘Mother’ due to his being meticulous about everything he managed. This worked in his long term favour, because he cared for and maintained the Forestry house and garden with such loving care that he was promised the use of the house for the rest of his lifetime by Hugh

Brown, the then Forest Commission head of Mt Buller. Although the house is no longer there, removed after Robbie's passing, the reminders of Robbie having lived there is evident in the beautiful plantation of trees that remain.



I recall taking a photo one year when my new hobby was photography and I put a copy in his letterbox while on the mail run which I had entitled "Autumn Flames". He left one for me the following day showing his driveway covered in a thick carpet of fallen leaves, which he had entitled "Flaming Autumn"

A new generation of Robbie's family have shown interest in his old stamping grounds in his niece Merryn who is a marriage celebrant now operating in the district.



"When it comes time to prepare your special ceremony I am here to help make the day special and enjoyable," Merryn said. "One thing I do for the couple is write a Poem (*or reading as some call them*) for the couple, it's about them feeling special on their day and it is their's forever."

She can be contacted by phone on 0409 206 103 if you are looking for a celebrant anytime, she also has her own Facebook webpage at <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Merryn-McCrae-Marriage-Celebrant-0409206103/212093462304608?ref=ts> and can be emailed on merryn.mccrae@gmail.com. I am sure Robbie would be thrilled to know that his family still comes to

visit where he loved to live. Merryn asked me to mention “If there are any businesses in your area that cater for weddings I am happy to place a link on my Facebook page to promote them.”

Robbie was known to his grandkids as Snow Poppy, because he lived near the snow, his name inspired Cyril, my late husband, to call himself Farnpa when Daniel our first grandchild was born. At the time of his birth he had six sets of great grandparents and an equal number of grandparents due to second marriages by both of his parent’s parents, but no one had claimed the name of Farnpa which suited Cyril right down to the paddock ground.

Much thanks for the background on Robbie which must go to Wendy Walsh who knew him so well, she also knew Merryn as a child because Robbie’s nieces and nephews and children all got up to mischief with Jim and Wendy’s kids when they came up to Merrijig for holidays. I also knew Robbie well but only in his retirement.

Alby (Wee Albert)



seemed to thoroughly enjoy his living wake last month. He has lost a lot of condition and his beard has thinned dramatically but he still has his cheeky sense of humour and continues to tell all his girlfriends that he intends to marry them when he wins Tattslotto. The Hunt Club Hotel was full of his friends and acquaintances on Saturday, March 15 where Glenda Lovick told us that he has been diagnosed with cancer but has accepted this news bravely. The hat was passed around to help with either sending Alby back to Geordie (a region in north east England) if he was strong enough or to bring one of his family out to see him.

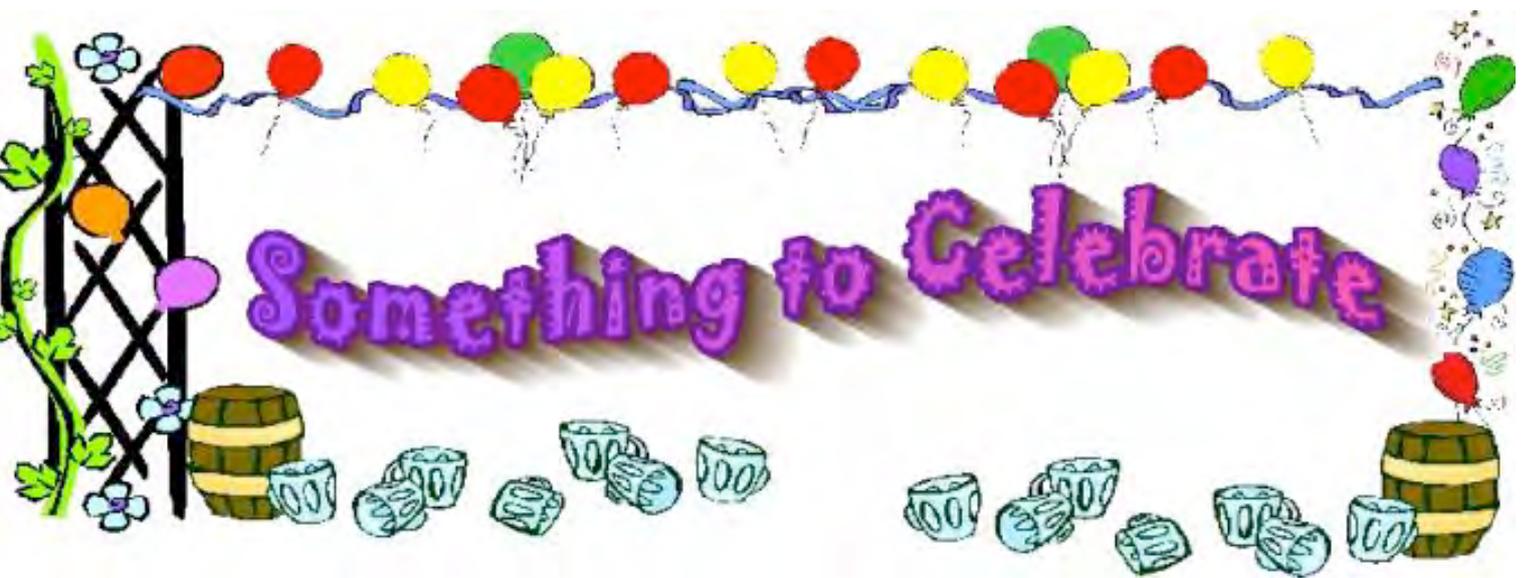
Kellie (Lovick) Purvis told me that the contents of the hat allowed for the purchase of a return ticket for Alby's sister to come to see him and she is due to arrive this week. Kellie said "We got \$2000 dollars and we were blown away by the kindest of his friends."

Everyone who took the time to come and see him made him very happy, and when he is surprised by his sister showing up, I can only imagine he will feel the love of his friends who enabled it.

Welcome to Merrijig!

Meet the new HUGE commercial machine just installed at AJ's Laundry. After enlarging the laundry the double-capacity washer was given its test run and was 100% successful. As an introduction to new customers Juliet - the boss at AJ's Laundry wishes to offer to any new customers their second bag of washing done at half price, just so they can give the expanded laundry a good test run. Prices are very reasonable anyway but by way of a tester, she would like to give new customers a bit of a bonus for giving AJ's laundry a go.





Buckle up Bushrides

Paul Skvor and Shelly Thor of Buckle Up Bushrides, certainly pack in several celebrations at the one time.

When congratulated and asked how she felt Shelley commented, "We have just got back in from the Wonnangatta after 10 days with the cattle! Birthday, Surprise Engagement and cattle back in the High Country! What more could a girl want!! Happy Happy Happy!"

And what more can be said, other than congratulations and a wish for many happy years building on their partnership.



What a night, "Happy 50th Shelly" and Paul popped the question

News from McCormack Park

A barbecue meeting of people from the Merrijig Community interested in getting a type of Merrijig Show at McCormack Park, off the ground, gathered in early April to share ideas and hopefully form an activities subcommittee of McCormack Park Grounds Management Committee Inc.

Dave Lovick recalls when there used to be fun days, held in the district, when Mt Buller residents would compete against Merrijig and Jamieson people in tugs of war and other type contests. And many locals remember how much fun the original Rodeo in Buttercup Road was when it included fun games. So far there is much enthusiasm about this project and amongst other ideas things such as holding those old fashioned fun gymkhana-type pony events and Rhyll McCormack has offered to run this side of things. Also such quests as 'the pony with the longest tail', or 'the pony with the neatest mane' contests that kids can win by simply taking care of their pony because Jacquie Pollard believes every kid should have a chance to win a ribbon, not only those who have the best trained pony or spend hours on their mounts practising. There will be dog jumping as Dave Lovick has offered to organise this event. Bob Bretherton has offered to invite the Fergie Tractor Club to provide a display and may even be able to have a bit of a ploughing competition with the old machines. Young Paige Webster is keen to organise children's games and has some brilliant ideas already which she is going to list. Andrew Jurjens has offered to be the first aid person as he is St John qualified and has his own first aid kit. I am sure someone will be happy to organise an adult barrel race, or steer ride once word gets around. There has even been a suggestion of

hosting a team penning of sheep, with a horse rider using his dog to pen a small mob of sheep on the arena.

I have been in touch with the shire event co ordinator Nicole Nye who suggests the event be part of the High Country Festival on the weekend it begins, either the Saturday where people could come from the bush market to our event or on the Sunday. These dates are October 25 and 26 his year.

It sure sounds like a wonderful fun day. If you have any ideas, to incorporate into this event feel free to come along and add your efforts to make the event a success. IF you have great ideas but can't make it to share them jot them down and email them to me and I shall take them along and read them out on your behalf.

The Wonnangatta Muster

The local mountain cattlemen with their families were out moving the stock to the Wonnangatta Valley in the latter weeks of March.



This photo shows in the centre, six year old Coby McCormack, 7th generation of this Mountain Cattlemen family. Photo by Kellie Puvis

Whether you agree or disagree with the mountain cattlemen having grazing rights in the High Country to care for this part of the mountains, I believe taking cattle back to the Wonnangatta Valley is a step in the right direction. Some decades ago I had the privilege of going to the Wonnangatta Valley when it was still used for cattle grazing. Then again, perhaps seven years ago, the overgrowth of weeds and neglect of the area was sadly evident everywhere. It seems apparent that the National Park area is too large to be cared for by the staff the department can afford to employ.

Cattle in the Wonnangatta Valley is nothing new, it began as a farm or a cattle station 146 years ago, from when it was discovered and worked by Oliver Smith and his family. The family produced milk, butter, cheese and beef for the gold miners who were supplied by a horse train, run by William Byrne which passed through the Smith homestead regularly. The Wonnangatta River flat, sitting at 2,300 ft above sea level was so productive that the work was too much for Smith and his wife and four sons, so Byrne was offered a partnership. This

began the Byrne era of Wonnangatta Station. The Byrnes built the homestead, the remains of which are still in evidence, some family members are buried in the little cemetery on site.

The valley became well known because of what is commonly called “The Wonnangatta Murders”, a mystery still today unsolved, but believed to have been committed over cattle duffing. On December 21, 1917 the two men, Jim Barclay and John Bamford, who lived on Wonnangatta Station at the time were last seen alive. They were discovered missing by the nearest neighbour Harry Smith on January 24, 1918, with a note on the hut door in chalk saying ‘be home tonight’. Harry left the next day and returned three weeks later to find the station dogs and the place neglected and the mail from his previous visit where he had left it. Not long after this the agents from Mansfield came to the station to see Barclay then onto Harry Smith’s when they found it deserted. The three men searched for several days and on the third day February 25, 1918, the corner of a red blanket attracted attention to a shallow grave on the banks of Conglomerate Creek from where animals had eaten part of the exposed body. Harry Smith was able to identify the body as that of Jim Barclay and the agents returned to Mansfield to report their discovery.



Photo by Kellie Puvis

The area was cleared of cattle during the Bracks Victorian Government in 2005 when it became part of the Contiguous Alpine National Park. This ‘trial’ is probably a way to bring back some practical weed control to the beautiful valley, where I found myself with my friends one weekend, surrounded by snow which had fallen overnight on the high valley sides and the peace that settled with the snow was almost something you could touch.



Charlie Lovick in front of the TV camera, where he seems very comfortable these days, explaining how the hard fought battle for this trial by the Mountain Cattlemen is greatly valued by the three cattlemen families, the Lovicks, Stoneys and McCormacks. Photo by Kellie Puvis

Update on the Changue Road Community Open Space Project

March 2014 – Presidents Report

From Nicole Gibson – President of Friends of Changue Road Reserve Inc.

The Friends of Changue Road Reserve project is at the following stage:

As the reserve site is subject to a cultural overlay, it requires a CHMP (Cultural Heritage Management Plan) prior to advancing further with the project.

A brief has been prepared by the Mansfield Shires Community Development Officer, Kirsten Lingard, for the council to engage and fund a CHMP.

This will be discussed at a council meeting in June this year whereby approval must be sought in the council budget to fund payment of the CHMP for the shire's cultural heritage overlay sites and associated project planning, which includes the Changue Road reserve site.

Progress is currently delayed pending the next step in the process, which is the outcome of the Council budget funding of the CHMP.

Upon gaining council approval for a CHMP to be funded within the Councils budget, the Friends of Changue Road Reserve committee look forward to engaging with the Mansfield Shire Council, Friends of Changue Road Reserve members and the Upper Delatite community in future planning and process discussions, to then move towards the goal set out in our statement of purpose, for the benefit of all those in the Upper Delatite region.

The group welcomes all new members. Please contact me for membership form on email: focri@gmail.com or 0400 878 748.

Friends of Changue Road Reserve Inc. Statement of Position:

‘To protect, preserve and enhance the parcel of land known as Changue Road Reserve in its present size of 1.633ha as per the original subdivision, for community use. To assist with special projects (eg Walking Trails) at the reserve as selected by the group in consultation with the local community and the Mansfield Shire Council’.

As well as this report from Nicole, the shire’s Kirsten Lingard added from her perspective what is going on at this time.

Kirsten Lingard Community Development Officer - Rural Access provided this report

Community members from Happy Valley through to Mirimbah created their first community plan during 2011 and in early 2012 the plan was finalised, launched and presented at Council. The plan outlines the things that community members value in their area; and the actions or initiatives they feel will make their community an even happier, healthier and more sustainable place.

The key projects from the plan are:

- A shared walking/cycling trail (now part of the Epic Trail)
- An open space/play area at Changue Road

To progress the open space/play area at Changue Road the Friends of Changue Road (FOCRR) was formed. The Friends of Changue Road Reserve Inc. has a Statement of Purpose which is “To protect, preserve and enhance the parcel of land known as Changue Road Reserve in its present size of 1.633ha as per the original subdivision, for community use. To assist with special projects (eg Walking Trails) at the reserve as selected by the group in consultation with the local community and the Mansfield Shire Council”.

In June 2013 the members of FOCRR discussed and listed concept plan ideas for the reserve. These being gravel walking trails, flat recreation area, bench seats, notice board and tree planting. There has been no further discussions about the scope of the project.

No further discussions have taken place because planning for the project has indicated that Changue Road Reserve has an area of cultural heritage sensitivity overlay, which indicates that an area, due to its location and proximity to a waterway could contain Aboriginal cultural heritage.

A budget allocation to undertake cultural heritage investigations and planning (at a number of other sites as well as the Changue Road site) has been put forward by Council Officers for consideration in the 2014/2015 Council Budget.

The project is essentially 'on-hold' until the cultural heritage component is confirmed and no further planning for the project should be undertaken until this component is confirmed. When the planning for the project does recommence the community will be consulted and as the landowner, Council will have to approve any plans prior to any works taking place.

The FOCRR have stated that they look forward to consulting with the council, FOCRR members and the Upper Delatite community in further planning and process discussions in due course.

We have heard that there has been some inaccurate information in the community about this project. If you have any concerns or questions about the above project I encourage you to call me on 5775 8534 to discuss and clarify.

If you would like any further information please don't hesitate to contact me. **Kirsten Lingard Community Development Officer - Rural Access** Phone: (03) 5775 8534”

It looks like Changue Rd and Upper Delatite people have extra time to think up what projects they would like to see grow on the reserve and perhaps get quotes or do other preparation to present a particular idea to the “Friends of Changue Rd” organization for when this ‘waiting’ for the council decision and then the cultural plan stage has passed. If you can get this out of the way and it’s time for community consultation you will be ready to launch your ideas.



A WORD FROM THE SHIRE

Cr Marg Attley:- Your local representative on Mansfield Shire Council.

Available to be contacted on: 5776 2231 or marg.attley@mansfield.vic.gov.au



Now as Mansfield is really West Merrijig, you may just be interested in this activity.

There are 40 places called Mansfield, or at least with Mansfield as part of their name. In reality there are actually 33 habitable cities, towns, villages, suburbs and hamlets which are formally named Mansfield. There are seven other "places of interest" with Mansfield in the name.

Our Mansfield Shire Council is one of two groups in Australia who are among those that have signed up to take part in International Clean Up Mansfield Day in early April. The initiative, which won a community award from the national Keep Britain Tidy campaign, aims to make Mansfield's everywhere the cleanest places in the world.

In addition to Councils Clean Up activities, local community groups and Schools have also jumped on board and will be contributing to the cause by coordinating their own environmental clean-up and activity on the day.

On the morning of April 2, council employees kicked off the clean up with a scout of the Mansfield CBD, High and Highett Streets ending up at the roundabout with bags of litter collected for a photo opportunity.

Later in the day, more clean ups focussed on the route to the shire's Resource Recovery Centre where roadside litter has been identified as an issue. Volunteers walked the length of Monkey Gully Road from the DEPI office to the top of Highton Lane then focus on Highton Lane in the afternoon.

You can still do your bit, even if you weren't able to help on the day, by picking up a piece of rubbish and putting it in the bin. If every resident in the Mansfield Shire collects one piece of rubbish then that would be more than 7000 pieces of litter collected.

The 2014 Communities for Nature Small Grants

Funding Opportunity

opened from 4.00pm Thursday, March 13, 2014.

The Victorian Government has launched the 2014 Communities for Nature Small Grants Funding Opportunity.

The Communities for Nature 2014 Small Grants Funding Opportunity aims to support practical action by community groups, schools, and volunteer organisations to deliver measurable environmental outcomes through on-ground works.

The Funding Opportunity will provide \$2,000,000 to community groups seeking one year grants for small grants up to \$10,000 (GST inclusive).

Projects that will be completed by 30 June 2015 are eligible for funding.

Applications can be submitted online from today and will close at 4.00pm Friday, April 11, 2014

More information can be found in the Guidelines and Frequently Asked Questions are found

online at <http://www.depi.vic.gov.au/environment-and-wildlife/community-programs/communities-for-nature-grants>

If you would like further information, please contact the Grants Information Line on **1300 366 356** between 8.30am and 5:00pm Monday to Friday.

To apply or view the application form <http://www.depi.vic.gov.au/environment-and-wildlife/community-programs/communities-for-nature-grants>

Communities for Nature Catchment and Community Programs

Department of Environment and Primary Industries

PO Box 3100, Bendigo DC 3554

communitiesfornature.grants@depi.vic.gov.au

web www.depi.vic.gov.au/environment-and-wildlife/community-programs/communities-for-nature-grants

Community Transport Project

For people who live in Merrijig and surrounds, many essential items and services must be purchased from Mansfield. As such, regular and accessible transport is essential. One of the actions identified in the Merrijig Community Plan was to develop a transport model similar to TOAST (Tolmie Offers A Seat to Town).

The TOAST project matches people driving to Mansfield that have a spare seat with residents who need a ride. TOAST evolved out of a community need and is based on the generosity and compassion of Tolmie residents. It was developed by locals for locals and is unique to any other transport scheme or community group.

For more information visit <http://www.tolmietimes.com/events-issues-toast-frequently-asked-questions>

There will be a meeting on **Monday, April 14, 6pm at the Merrijig Hall** for people who are interested in developing a similar transport model for the people of Merrijig. For further information please contact Kirsten Lingard, Community Development Officer, 5775 8534 or kirsten.lingard@mansfield.vic.gov.au

The Merrijig Hall Committee ran the BBQ at the Rodeo

Standing in for Frank Johnson (as I am on the activities sub-committee) at the hall meeting was enlightening as they cover several topics and each member has their own area of expertise and offer various skills to the operation of our community hall.

They were happy with how smoothly the barbecue ran at the Merrijig Rodeo with the rostered volunteers and have a few suggestions for improvement to the barbecue area. Following the report, Hall Committee President, Noel Willaton, thanked me for the hard fought battle involving the Rodeo committee, which allowed them the opportunity to be involved. A gesture I very much appreciate.

A working bee and clearing sale will be held at the hall this Sunday, April 13 as mentioned previously.

The Merrijig Quilt

The Merrijig quilt made by dedicated local ladies is ready to hang, when the men indicate where the hanging brackets will be placed so that the pockets for hanging can be added to the finishing quilt surround. When the Jacobs return from their London escape, Laurie will ascertain where the strongest points are located so the ladies can complete their labour of love. This will be another social occasion for the hall, date will be given when decided.

Recently, hall committee member, Georgie Deyell set up a stall at Do it Mansfield outlining what a great venue the hall is. From all reports it seems this was well received and hopefully some more use of the hall will come from making it better known.

**MERRIJIG HALL IS AVAILABLE FOR HIRE FOR ANY FUNCTION
AT MOST REASONABLE RATES**

Call Sen Davies 0407 565 962 or 5777 5656

Some of the regular activities held at the hall include

THE STITCHING



"Which" Craft?

The group gathers on Thursdays at 11am, finishing up around 3pm. Everyone brings along a small plate of goodies to share for morning tea and/or lunch. Tea and coffee are supplied.

New members welcome.
Cost per session is \$4.
For further details contact Kerrie on 04 3738 0384





How about dining out occasionally?

Usually on a Wednesday evening on alternate weeks the 'Merrijig Dining out Mob' gets together. However last month it was a Thursday at the Mill Inn and the meals were so interesting and delicious it is likely to be back there again very soon to work our way through the menu.

The next dinner planned for the Old Fire Station Restaurant in Mansfield is this week, April 9, at 6.30. If you are free please think about coming along.

The venue for the next dinner out is decided as each evening out comes to an end, but you can be sure it will be a nice place to eat.

The people who have been attending these dinners, vary according to who are available and it's a great way to get to know different people in our community by sitting down to dinner with them and chatting over a pleasant meal that no one in the party had to prepare and wash up after.

If the occasional dinner out interests you, then you can let Jacquie know on brianjacquie@gmail.com or Maureen on maureenandgreg@bigpond.com and they will save you a seat, or you can simply come along and join in - (sometimes though bookings are advisable)

WHAT'S GOING ON AT OUR LOCAL

HUNT CLUB HOTEL OPENING HOURS

Monday to Thursday from 2.00 pm.

Friday, Saturday Sunday from 11.00 am.

Bistro open from 6.00 pm for dinner 7 nights

**Mondays: Kids Under 12 Eat Free with purchase of a main meal
(excluding Public Holidays)**

Tuesdays: Trivia every 2nd Tuesday

**Wednesdays: Pizza/Parma/Steak Night
Parma & a Pot of Boags \$20.00**

**(Ask for a loyalty card and receive every 5th Parma Free,
conditions apply)**

Thursdays: Happy Hour from 5.30 pm - 7.30 pm

Bar Snacks & Prize Draw at 7.30 pm

2 Jugs of Boags and 12 Chicken Wings \$35.00

Lunches: Friday, Saturday Sunday

12.00 noon - 2.00 p.m.



**Keep an eye on the notice board on the roadside
to catch when live music or special events are coming up.**



Live Music

SATURDAY, APRIL 19, 2014

Dean Pritchard sings Blues/Soul

Meals from 6.00 pm
Entertainment from 8.30 pm (Free Entry)

SATURDAY, APRIL 26, 2014

**John-Luke Shelley returns for a solo
performance**

Meals from 6.00pm

Entertainment from 8.30 pm (Free Entry)

Courtesy Troop Carrier available between Sawmill Settlement
and the Hunt Club Hotel

for April 19th & 26th - Bookings essential

SATURDAY, JUNE 7, 2014

John-Luke Shelley & High Speed Steel

Meals from 6.00 pm

Entertainment from 8.30 pm (Free Entry)

Bookings Recommended

News from McCormack Park - perhaps a Merrijig Show?

A barbecue meeting of people from the Merrijig Community interested in getting a type of **Merrijig Show** off the ground, at McCormack Park was held on April 5. The meeting shared ideas and hopefully from this an activities sub committee of McCormack Park Grounds Management Committee Inc. will be formed.

Dave Lovick recalls when there used to be fun days, held in the district. Mt Buller residents would compete against Merrijig and Jamieson people in tugs of war and other contests. And many locals remember how much fun the original Rodeo in Buttercup Road was when it included fun games. So far there is much enthusiasm about this project and amongst other ideas things such as holding those great old fashioned fun gymkhana-type pony events. **Rhyll McCormack** has offered to run this side of things. Also such quests as 'the pony with the longest tail', or 'the pony with the neatest mane' contests that kids can win by simply taking care of their pony because **Jacque Pollard** believes every kid should have a chance to win a ribbon not only those who have the best trained pony or spend hours on their mounts practising. **Dave Lovick** has offered to organise dog jumping and **Bob Bretherton** has offered to invite the Fergie Tractor Club to provide a display and may even be able to have a

bit of a ploughing competition with the old machines. Young **Paige Webster** is keen to organise children's games and has some brilliant ideas already which she is going to list. **Andrew Jurrjens** has offered to be the first aid person as he is St John qualified. I am sure someone will be happy to organise an adult barrel race, or steer ride once word gets around. There has even been a suggestion of hosting a team penning of sheep, with a horse rider using his dog to pen a small mob of sheep on the arena. It all sound like so much fun.

Shire event co-ordinator Nicole Nye suggests the event be part of the High Country Festival on the weekend it begins, either the Saturday where people could come from the bush market to our event or on the Sunday. These dates are November 1 & 2.

It sure sounds like a wonderful fun day. If you have any ideas, to incorporate into this event please contact me so I can add it to the mix.

Wild Dogs are still causing problems. Traps have been set where the dogs have been spotted but so far none have been caught. The trouble seeming to be that the wombat hole system they have made home has too many exits. It has to be presumed that they have not got to be old wild dogs without having some 'smarts'. DSE are reluctant to bait the dogs as there are so many domestic dogs in the area. Until the situation is under control keep your eyes and ears open and report any sightings and keep an eye on your stock.

Campdraft News

Merrijig Campdraft are having a bit of a rest at the moment, but following last year, having worked hard on bringing McCormack Park up to Australian Campdraft Standard, means their workload from now on will be lighter. Still, secretary Andrea has applied for a grant to kick off the building of toilets and connecting power. As well as this, following discussions with Hall Committee reps using the barbecue area at the Rodeo there are plans on making more permanent shade on that structure.

Merrijig Rodeo - was held on my property on March 8, according to the newspaper report it was a rousing success, and the atmosphere, amongst the biggest crowd some people had ever seen in attendance, was very happy.

Local man **Lachie Cullican** won the "Jess Hearn Memorial Steer ride" much to his delight. Lachie says "The feeling of winning the steer ride, was un-touchable !" Lachie is a determined young man who worked for Bruce McCormack during his VCAL school years as he also worked on improving his skills, mainly riding horses.

"In my younger years," Lachie told me, "I had tried to be successful at this steer riding sport, and always wanted to win a buckle. I stuck to it and despite all the down times and ridicule through those years, this result is something I won't forget!"

When I asked him how he felt when he was riding he said, “I knew as soon as I rode ‘time’, and heard the draw, that the next challenge would be facing Jess’s Dad, Mick Hearn while trying to hold myself together emotionally!”

He went on to explain that it’s difficult to find the words to say just how much he will cherish this trophy.



Lachie Cullican proudly displaying the Jess Hearn Memorial Steer Ride trophy buckle

Lachie added when asked what he thought before the event was put back on the program, “It really upset me hearing that this event was initially cut from the program. Considering they put a limit of 10 riders on the event because it gets flooded with entries, it made no sense.”

Surprisingly this young man told me “The thing that upset me the most Adele was the lack of appreciation and courtesy that they showed you! It’s your generosity that makes the night! And it could not run without you! And make sure you do write that last bit” he ended the interview with “THANK YOU very much”.

Needless to say I am very impressed with this young man, and not because he won the Jess Hearn Memorial Steer Ride. There has not been a word of appreciation from others who benefits from the event, only Lachie and the Hall committee. But then I guess not everyone knows what it took to reach a point where the event could run. Still, enough to know what

compromises were made for the benefit of the community; this young man stands out above everyone else.

Jess's father Mick, who said on Facebook that he was honoured to be able to present the buckle, told me that "It's great to get behind this event as it keeps Jessica's memory alive and also keeps the circumstances of her death fresh amongst her age group. We can't bring her back but if - **if** we can prevent any similar incidents it would be a bonus. Lachie Cullican went to school with Jess, so it was a privilege to present the buckle to him."

Jess was a keen steer rider herself and participated in many 'buckouts' with her friends prior to her untimely death in a car crash where she was a passenger. She will never be forgotten for her talent, courage and energy as long as her friends, like Lachie and the other contestants, like Scott Purcell who was the runner up, participate in the event named in her honour.

"It was also a thrill for me to do the opening National Anthem," Mick went on to say, "As this was Jessica's gig for the last few years of her life. Thank you for wanting to tell her short but colourful story."

I have no other reports for you as none were supplied. Hopefully though the beneficiaries will do well out of the increased entry fees and camping prices, after all it is for the benefit of the community organisations that the Rodeo is held and I make my place available for the event **for** the community at no cost to the organisers. Perhaps there will be some news for next month's issue about how things pan out and the funds are distributed and to whom.

I was going to tell you about how Bruce McCormack has signed up two more VCAL students for the next two years. But the newsletter is already long so shall save it for the May issue.

Motorbike Club – the place to learn safe riding practices

The turn up at McCormack Park Merrijig track on Sunday, March 23 was amazing. A total of 40 riders registered on the day. Dads and mums, brothers and sisters watched as the kids took to the track. In their break, tiny riders watched admiringly as the older, more experienced riders flew over jumps while back on their beginner track, they learned how to negotiate small mounds and curves.

From tiny beginner riders- riders in gumboots



From tiny beginner riders- riders in gumboots



To the fully kitted out big fellas – all are catered for

Bike club day is a fantastic family day out. The children and the parents are taught about bike safety, and the correct care and maintenance of their bikes as well as safety riding equipment.

With the come-and-try day such a success in February the club is healthy and growing although older children move away as their skills improve beyond this club, there are more and more 'shorter members' eager to take their spots.

The next meeting is **not** at McCormack Park it seems, as on the website it reads *Sunday, April 27 Grass Track (Full details in newsletter shortly)*

You can check out the bike clubs website at <http://www.mansfieldmc.com/>

If you wish to make any enquiries about bike club, call someone on the 2013/14 Committee
President: Kristie Payne 0438 578 300 Vice President: Corey Payne

Secretary / Treasurer: Euan Friday 0407 556 587

Ever needed a face painter ?

Michele was painting little faces at a birthday party recently.

Keep her in mind for when you find you need a children's' entertainer.

To hire Michele for a birthday party or club fundraiser check out the notice below.

Chele's Face~Painting,
\$50- p/h.



Fundraisers
Having a Family Fun Day, Fete, Trash & Treasure?
Pay for 2 hours get 4 hours and charge a minimum of \$6 per full face and \$3- per cheek to keep for yourself.



AJ's
Laundry Services

4 Stirling St Merrijig
Juliet mob 0419 210 468
Merrijig Office: (03)5777 5967

NOW FOR A FINAL GOOD LAUGH!

**A new study
has found that
women with large
bums live longer
than men who
mention it**

Bye for now Adele

Adele McCormack,
45 McCormack's Rd,
Merrijig 3723

☎ 03 5777 5637 **M:** 0409 600 655

This Merrijig Community Newsletter is compiled by Adele McCormack of Merrijig and edited and published on this website by Louise Jacob also of Merrijig, as a community service.

The newsletter is an outcome of the Merrijig Community Plan initiated by the Shire of Mansfield Council.

Every care has been taken in gathering and presenting the information on this site. Inquiries can be directed to info@merrijig.com.au

The site is designed and sponsored by Merrijig resident, Steve Thompson of Appaloosa Films www.appaloosafilms.tv