

Merrijig Matters

Merrijig's Monthly Newsletter

May, 2014

Issue 13

Index

Feedback / local Justice of the Peace	2
Calendar	3
ANZAC Day	4 - 11
Who's doing what lately	11 - 19
Timbertop School Community Service	19 - 20
Mill Inn Notice	20
Merrijig Primary School News	21
What's going on at Merrijig hall?	21 - 23
Wee Albert's family visit /Welcome to Merrijig	24
Something to Celebrate	25 - 26
Word from the shire	26
Dining out mob	27
Wild Dogs	28
Alpine Museum Volunteers needed	28
Rodeo – Bruce takes on VCAL students	29
McCormack Park-Fun Day/Training Day	30 - 31
Campdraft news	31 - 32
Mansfield Bush Walking Club	32 - 33
Motorbike Club News	33 - 35
What's on at the local?	35 - 36
What else is going on at Merrijig hall?	36
Adverts	37
End of Newsletter Joke	38

Quote of the month

A Japanese Proverb

**Vision without action
is Daydream**

**Action without vision
is Nightmare**

Feedback is back

“Adele you haven't lost your touch as a storyteller. Well done.”

Robin

And

“I love the newsletter!!! Great idea. Congrats on your anniversary of one year!!”

Shelly Haley

On ANZAC day several people commented to me on how much they enjoyed reading the newsletter, so keep your news coming, as those who cannot get away on exciting holidays, are enjoying reading about what others are up to.

And after proof reading an article Deb McCormack wrote, “I can't wait to read the newsletter”

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 5733 6777
Laurie Jacob, Buttercup Rd 0439 280 333

May 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4 Rodeo beneficiaries thank you lunch at the Motor Inn	5	6 Trivia at the pub 7pm	7 Dining out club eating at Mingo's 6.30	8	9	10 Masfield bushwalking club Mitchell track walk for beginners
11 Mothers Day	12	13	14	15 Mill Inn reopens	16	17
18	19	20 Trivia at the pub 7pm	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

Merrijig remembers the ANZACs



A crisp morning with a layer of frost whitening the greened paddocks was the beginning of the walk by around 13 horses out of Merrijig Valley, lead by one of the pursuit police cars as the sun fought its way over the mountain range.



Photo by Adele McCormack



Photo by Tom Swan



Photo by Greg Sullivan

As the riders reached the crest of the road at what is known locally as Corn Hill, many people took the opportunity to take some photos of the flag-bearing horse riders. With the mountain range and Mt Buller as a backdrop lead riders Brian and Jacquie Pollard, Kane Lovick and Bethany Mansbridge showed the way where the horses stood quietly throughout the formal proceedings.



Photo by Glenn McColl

As the sun comes over the mountains

For seven years Merrijig residents have gathered at the top of Buttercup Road, where five pine trees were planted following World War 1 to recognise the contribution of five Merrijig men whose names appear on the plaque on site.

This year about 140 people attended, some travelling from Mansfield following the dawn service there while others came from Jamieson just to be part of the special recognition Merrijig gives to all who served in any field of war, including the horses. Horse rider numbers were down this year but still made an impressive sight following a police pursuit car making their way up from Merrijig township bearing flags of several nations.

While waiting for the horses, those gathering were warmed by braziers of burning firewood much to their delight on a beautiful frosty morning.

Michael Ray once again directed proceedings at the Five Pines. His address brought many close to tears and has had people talking still about how impressed they were with his presentation. He gave a depth of understanding to his talk, by quoting from the diary of a digger and relating the confident attitude of one local horseman, Richard Cleary, who spoke of how the bullet had not been made that would kill him. Unfortunately though he was mistaken.

When Michael spoke of how so many of the finest of Australia's young men who went to Gallipoli were no more than boys, then followed his reading of a statement by the Turkish leadership assuring the Australian mothers and wives that their sons and husbands rested in peace in a land that valued them, many in the audience were very moved.

Paul Jackson played the Last Post on his vintage bugle, followed by Stuart McLachlan on the bagpipes. Stuart presented the New Zealand National Anthem prior to Adele McCormack who lead the singing of Advance Australia Fair who was joined by local children who had volunteered to make up a small group.

Those present who had prepared rocks to acknowledge family members who have or are serving our country were invited to place those rocks while Stuart played a hymn for the solemn occasion. One rock was prepared and placed for Russell (Budda) Prendergast, who had passed way since last year, although not a service person he had great respect for those who were and Russell never missed a Merrijig ANZAC Day ride.



Col Peter and Jan Howarth Photo by Emma Howarth



*Adele McCormack with granddaughters.
At right Paul Jackson and Stuart McLachlan.
Photo by Michele Lunam*



2014 Merrijig acknowledgement of ANZAC day

Following the formalities the gathering moved across the road to partake of a “Gunfire Breakfast” organised by Merrijig locals Frank and Tess Johnson helped by Anne and Max Bloomfield, Eric Seiwert and Jackie Noble. The profits of around \$200 will be assigned to the care of the tree plantation which has once again become important to the people of Merrijig through these annual ANZAC day ride and gatherings.



Bright sun to melt the frost for the gunfire breakfast - Photo by Michele Lunam

Frank took the trouble to write a report from his perspective and I have provided it here as it has such a depth to it with a personal touch.

'It only comes once a year and again the community of Merrijig rallied to the cause and followed our ANZACs on a very cold and frosty morning to join in the commemoration 99 years after the originals launched themselves into legends we acknowledge today. Although I heard someone say "why didn't they land at midday?" which on this cold morning I had to agree would have been a good idea!

'On witnessing the "high country" horsemen and women riding up the hill towards Buttercup Road, one wondered what it would have been like witnessing a Battalion of Light Horsemen riding off to battle which they never had the ability to do at Gallipoli or France, however, displaying their ability later in the war in the Middle East. I heard on a news report how Australian school children were chastised for taking a swim at ANZAC Cove prior to The ANZAC Service. My thoughts on this is; it displayed what I believe was the Australian spirit and a thing the original "larrikin" Diggers would have done in their day.

'On my arrival at Buttercup Road, a small group of participants were huddled around the fire burning in an old washing machine tub to keep warm, again, the same initiative the Diggers would have shown in their difficult living conditions during World War 1.

'I was given a helping hand, which to me demonstrated the Aussie spirit of team work and helping mates. Lighting two more fires as the horsemen and women approached and ready in preparation for the Gunfire Breakfast.

'We gathered around and listened to the address delivered by historian Michael Ray, who covered the story of Gallipoli and brought home the message by providing local examples of residents from the area of their experiences of the landing and beyond. This was followed by Paul Jackson's rendition of The Last Post, followed by a minute's silence and then Reveille. I have always wondered why we choose Reveille and not "Wakey Wakey" as they do in the Navy? A different tune to Reveille which is what they use in the morning in the Army.

'This was followed by Stuart McLachlan playing the New Zealand National Anthem on the Bagpipes; however, we were spared The Hakka! Then the Australian National Anthem sung by Adele McCormack and accompanied beautifully by our local children, who will keep the ANZAC Day

tradition going. We hope they never have to experience what our servicemen and women went through in all wars and we can live in peace for their sake.

'Next was the laying of the rocks of Remembrance by those wishing to do so. This was all very stirring and I admit I get very emotional at the point of The Last Post and Remembrance stone laying. The reason is I am named after my Uncle Frank D Johnson who survived the sinking of HMAS Perth, landed in Changi, survived his time on The Burmese Railway building, only to come to grief after being sunk in a Japanese Cram Ship when being taken to Japan. Uncle Frank's Captain was Hec Waller a Benalla boy and Sir Weary Dunlop was the highly respected Doctor at Changi and another Benalla boy.

'Anyway, service over and the local community assembled together to enjoy the Gunfire Breakfast, coming together for an important and respectful service of remembrance and displaying great community spirit and cohesion. More importantly enjoying themselves and acknowledging how we are all thankful for the sacrifices made by our armed services personnel in giving us the freedom to spend ANZAC Day as we wish and think about how fortunate we are to live in this wonderful country and area. I invited a number of people to join us for the commemoration service and acknowledge that it is their choice to join us or not and this freedom of choice comes from the sacrifice's our servicemen and women gave.

'For nine years I was the Inspector of Police In Charge of The Victoria Shrine of Remembrance security, organising and attending ANZAC Day at the Shrine each year. As rewarding as the experience was, I must say that to witness the community interest and spirit that **our** local ANZAC service displays is also very inspiring and rewarding. Congratulations to all involved for your support and participation in the Merrijig ANZAC Day Service.

'I would particularly like to thank the following for their assistance on ANZAC Day: Paul Jackson – organiser of this commemoration service, all the horse riders, Michael Ray, Stuart McLachlan (Piper), Adele McCormack and all the children for their rendition of the Australian National Anthem, (and the barbecue). The Merrijig Hall Committee for allowing us to use their tables and chairs and barbecue as well. Appreciation to Senior Sgt Ashley Mason, Sgt Marty McLachlan and Leading Senior Constable Ben Brodley, for escorting the horsemen/women along Mt Buller Road and providing safety throughout the service. Thanks to my wife, Tess, for her assistance with arranging and running the breakfast, Ann eand Max Bloomfield, Jackie Noble, Eric Seiwert for their assistance with the barbecue, Greg Williams for mowing the reserve and Peter Howarth for his support and assistance. I know there were other people who chipped in and helped on the day and if I have not acknowledged your assistance please accept my apologies and I sincerely thank you for all your help.

'Next year, Tess and I will be off the coast of Turkey and in ANZAC Cove. I hope I can arrange some assistance to ensure the commemorative ride and service goes ahead and someone can pick up the mantle and organise 'The Gunfire Breakfast' to recognise and commemorate the original landing on Gallipoli which, as stated, forged a young nation after only 14 years of becoming a Nation, demonstrating what Australians can do and be to be proud to be Australian.'

By Frank Johnson



Flag bearer Kane Lovick and son Ethan, who has never missed an ANZAC day ride in his young life



Brian and Jacquie Pollard flag bearers, also have never missed an ANZAC day!



Ret. Col Peter Howarth, centre of the crowd, enjoying the warmth of the brazier, which his daughter, Emma, suggested he take to the Five Pines site



Happy to serve up breakfast Anne Bloomfield is at hand Photo by Peter Howarth

ANZAC Day in Canberra 2014 - by Georgie Deyell

Peter and I have attended ANZAC dawn services in Melbourne, Merrijiig and now in Canberra. In a brisk Canberrian morning, as we walked to the War Memorial official cars were driving into Treloar Crescent so it was our pleasant surprise to see who was arriving in front of us, the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge, Prince William and Kate Middleton and the Governor General, Sir Peter Cosgrove.

As we were at the War Memorial the day before and saw two grand stands were in preparation we found our way to a good spot to see the service.



This year the service reflected on the 40 Australian soldiers who died during Australia's longest war in Afghanistan. Their images were reflected onto the war memorial.

In reference to the images of 40 fallen soldiers cast on the War Memorial, a speaker reflected on the hundreds of servicemen who are still battling with the mental and physical scars of battle. The speaker went on to say, "We do not see the 261 soldiers who were wounded; we do not see those who have wrestled with post-traumatic stress disorder, nor the other mental health issues which have resulted from their service."

It was a privilege to hear the recipient of the Victorian Cross, Corporal Benjamin Roberts-Smith, deliver an address to the crowd on the endurance and stewardship of the ANZAC spirit. He too talked about the hundreds of soldiers who survived yet are dealing with their own trauma with mental health and physical disabilities.



We saw one returned serviceman placing a poppy beside a fallen mate on the Afghanistan roll. It was heartbreaking to see him overcome with emotion as he cried openly and unashamedly for his mate.

It took me a long time to write this as it was with lots of tears. Seeing this gentleman was gut wrenching and no matter how you feel about this war, any war, lives have been lost and then there are survivors, which makes you empathise more deeply, as we tend to think of those who died, yet there are so many who suffer for as long as they live on afterwards - which I didn't think about. It was a learning curve.

Lest we forget

Georgie Deyell

Who's doing what lately?

Following on from the ANZAC day reports it is appropriate to have Louise and Laurie Jacob's story on what they learned when they visited Beautiful Bletchley Park and the tragedy of Alan Turing



Bletchley Park was purchased by the British Government in 1938 to house the very secret code breaking and intelligence efforts of the Government Code and Cypher School (GC & CS). Located north west of London, it could easily be reached from Oxford and Cambridge but was far enough from London to be deemed safe from a potential air attack which was expected.

At its peak an estimated 10,000 people worked there and in the associated out-stations. It is calculated that the work of the code breakers shortened World War 2 by two years.

It was such a secret place that families of the employees did not know where they worked or what they did. The Germans did not know of the place until 1975 when a former Bletchley worker published a book about the work achieved.

They intercepted, deciphered, analysed and distributed the intelligence derived from enemy radio signals.

The cyphers were created by an Enigma machine used by the Germans to send supposedly impenetrable codes and cyphers. However mathematicians developed unique data processing machines which sped up the code breaking work of the GC & CS.

The breakthrough came with the development of an incredibly complicated machine later called a Bomba machine devised by three Polish mathematicians who shared their work with the British and the French. (They didn't know what to call it so named it Bomba after a Polish ice cream!!).

In 1939, Cambridge codebreaker and mathematician, Gordon Welchman realised the Enigma machine settings were changed at midnight each night by the Germans. From this information 24 hour shifts were started at Bletchley Park. Welchman and another brilliant mathematician, Alan Turing, inspired by the Polish Bomba machine, developed the Bombe which deduced the day's Enigma settings of both the rotors and the plug board, by eliminating the many incorrect possibilities.

The Enigma machine used rotors to scramble messages into unintelligible cypher text. Each machine generated different cypher text and finding those settings which were reset at midnight was the challenge faced by the code breakers. The bombe machine shortened the process.

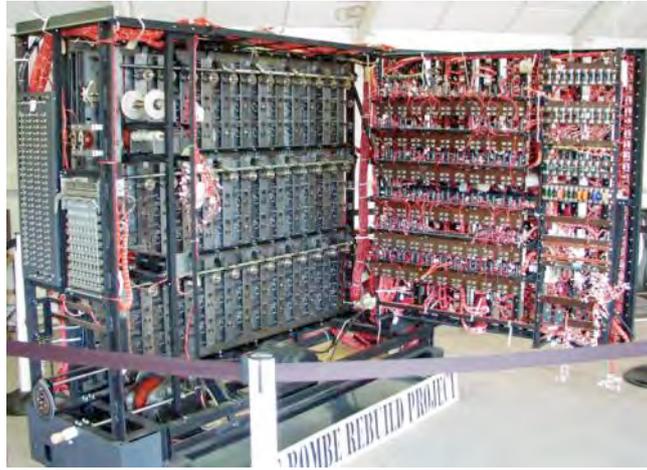
The work was done in huts around the property. They were dim, soulless places.



Hut 4 - now a restaurant

If you only do one thing if you ever go to England take a trip to Bletchley Park. It is such an amazing place, so complex and so interesting what was achieved and in total secrecy.

The estate was divided into Huts, each with its own task. Workers in each hut did not know what workers in the other huts were working on and the staff did not know what happened to the messages they deciphered or what significance they played in the war campaign.



The reconstructed Bombe machine

The tragedy of Alan Turing

The mathematician who was the spearhead of the brilliance of Bletchley was Alan Turing. He achieved so much, too much to record here, but if you are interested please click on this link. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alan_turing part of which records his death as the following:

Mr Turing was convicted of indecency and homosexuality and accepted treatment with oestrogen injections (chemical castration) as an alternative to prison. He died in 1954, 16 days before his 42nd birthday, from cyanide poisoning. An inquest determined his death a suicide; his mother and some others believed it was accidental. On 10 September 2009, following an Internet campaign, British Prime Minister Gordon Brown made an official public apology on behalf of the British government for "the appalling way he was treated." The Queen granted him a posthumous pardon on 24 December 2013.



*Brilliant mathematician,
Alan Turing*

Bridget Purcell graduates- Bachelor of Social Work with Distinction — with mother Kerrie and father Greg Purcell of Buttercup Rd, Merrijig pictured at Deakin University Waterfront Campus.



Miranda Connaughton Kerr who was one of the judges at the Merrijig Bush Poetry Day was off to the Sofitel for dinner and drinks because her husband Chris Kerr is Holden's 'numero uno regional salesman for Australia!' "Go my husband..." said Miranda, she couldn't be more proud. "He works for Martins Garage Holden dealership"





Chris certainly looks justifiably proud of his achievement.

Off to Qld for a special occasion

Bruce and Deb McCormack and Jack McCormack too, headed off to Mackay for a special occasion for their daughter and sister Cass who has become engaged to be married. Her grandparents Neil and Olga Walker took their caravan up too as they didn't want to miss out, with their son John and his family also living in McKay, it was an opportunity too good to pass up. Cass's older sister Rhonda and her family flew up and spent the first half of the school holidays in the sunshine.



Pictured on Page 15.

A rare (these days) family photo with Cass and Jared centre, Bruce, Deb and Jack next to Daniel, on the left, Olga and Neil beside Cass and Jared, Rhonda and husband Luke and John and Nikki on the right. The children are Bruce and Deb's grandchildren from Rhonda and Luke.

Jack said he really missed his own family with so many other people with their children with them amongst the guests at the party, but he did love being with the extended family too.

It's never too hard being on a Queensland beach and particularly special for Bruce and Deb when their grown children can be all together with them.



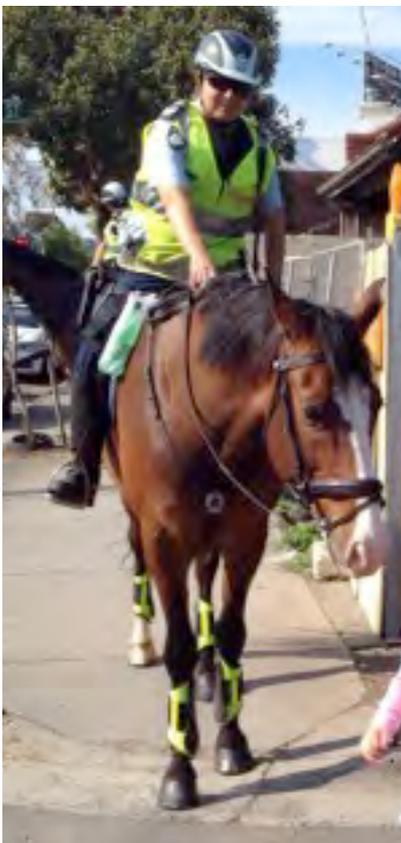
Daniel Purcell's new job

Dan has accepted a job on Mansfield Shire as "Sport & Recreation Officer". I am sure his parents will be delighted that he has come home to work, perhaps not all that thrilled that he is using extra hot water and is always using the internet. It's good to know though, that the young professionals, when they complete their qualifications, WANT to come back to work in the community they grew up in. Well done Dan, and let's hope you enjoy working back in your home town.

Jody Galway attended a training course in late April run by Ken Faulkner entitled – ‘Australian Natural Horsemanship’.



Jody, who is one of Victoria’s Mounted Police, has the best of both worlds rolled into one, as she gets to work with horses and ride her horse Monte for pleasure as well.



Only a few weeks prior to the horsemanship course, Jody with a few of her friends took the horses on a trek through the mountains visiting Razorback and Craig’s hut amongst others.



Jody knows how to get the best out of being a Merrijigger.

Walking for Bowel Cancer Awareness

In January Cheryl Christopher took a group of local teenagers on a trip to Vietnam. You may recall a newsletter article about Paige Webster and Molly Chiller from Merrijig being part of that group. Well Cheryl is once again putting her hand up to be ‘hands on’ in the lives of the teenagers as she and her son Will step it out on an 80 kms hike in South Australia.



“We are really looking forward to the challenge of this SA hike, walking a section of the Heysen Trail at the end of May” Cheryl said.

“Last year we lost a very good friend to bowel cancer, a teacher who has left behind a husband and three children she adored as well as many, many friends whose lives she improved by showing us her bravery and continuous loving while she was living,” Cheryl continued “Will and I will travel the 80 kms with Jenny in our hearts and we hope to raise awareness about bowel cancer and how bowel scans can save lives, as well as raise money for the foundation by doing this walk together.”

Already mutual friends of Jenny and Cheryl’s have made donations to support Will and her efforts and they comment that they feel sure that Jenny would be proud of their efforts and will be definitely walking with them in spirit.



Day one of training! Getting ready for Jodi Lee Foundation 80 kms walk – “We have 5 weeks” Cheryl remarked as she and Will stepped it out.

Please get behind Cheryl and Will and make a donation which may just help prevent you, a family member or good friend from becoming a victim of bowel cancer in the future.

[Cheryl and Will Christopher | Jodi Lee Foundation](http://www.jodileefoundation.org.au)
www.jodileefoundation.org.au

Timbertop Community Service (at Bally Patrick)

This is the first time I have had a group of Timbertop students come to help out on my place, and it is already a positive experience. Tuesday night, April 29th, was predicted to be the coldest night since last winter, I couldn't bare for the boys to be camped outside in their tents, so they rolled out their sleeping bags in the two spare rooms and said they all slept well They enthusiastically expressed their gratitude in the morning.

On arrival they moved some old stacked up furniture from the verandah but it was already coming in icy with the rain when they completed this job, so we headed back inside and played a game of '3 Joes' with three packs of cards, breaking only to have dinner. It was good fun and helped Jackson and I get to know the boys and them to feel comfortable with us.

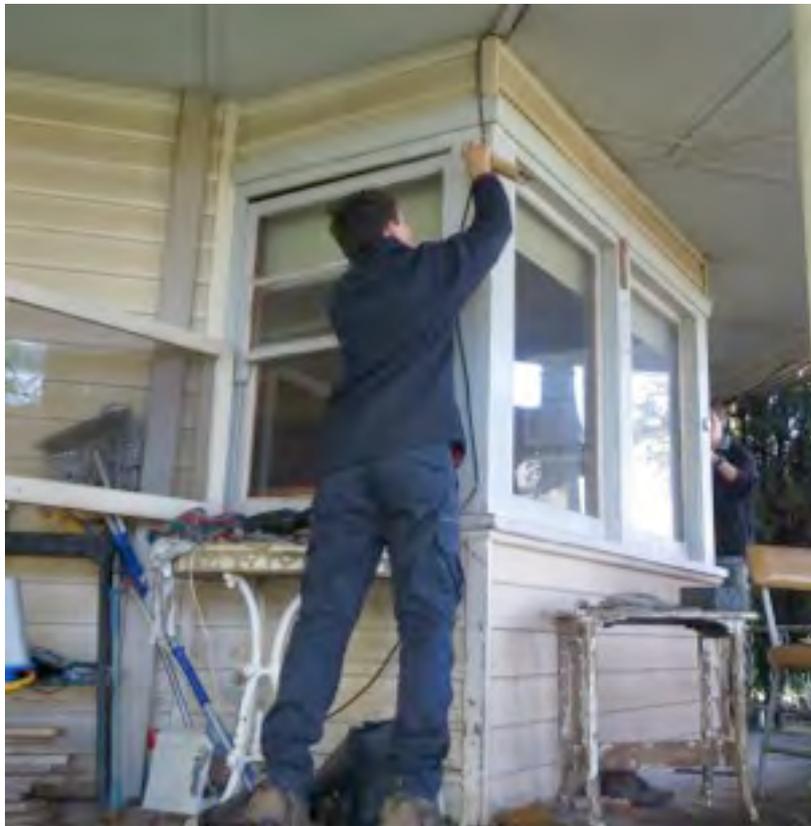
Wednesday, bright and early they were up for breakfast and then keen to get into the jobs. So as I write up this article, at 9.30 am, the five boys from D Unit, are working with Jackson sanding down my window frames and stretching out masking tape over the glass prior to splashing paint around.

They cooked their own meal at night and washed up for me as well, one boy also unloaded the dishwasher – all their ideas.

This is a wonderful experience, and Jackson is enjoying their company as much as I am. I always thought you had to have some special contact with Timbertop campus to be part of the project but you only need a working with children's clearance and a safe place for the students to set up their camp with access to a toilet, as they are otherwise self-sufficient.

I can, therefore, recommend you take on a group of students if you have a project you need a few extra helping hands with.

They may be all booked up for this year but you could let Jan Purcell in the school's office know you are prepared to be part of the program in the future by phoning her on 5733 6777 during office hours.



As I don't have permission to publish pictures of my workers here are some faceless boys sanding down my windows.



1 Alpine Ridge Drive,

Merrijig VIC 3723

**CLOSED FOR
our
Pre Winter Chill**

Re-Opening

Thursday, May 15, 2014

NEW MENU | NEW PASTA

Winter opening hours

Thursday – Sunday Dinner from 5.00pm

Thank you all for your support this Summer

Merrijig Primary School News



“A BIG MERRIJIG WELCOME to our newest staff member, teacher, MISS BETHANEY YOUNG,” says Principal Carole McCluskey

“Bethaney is a graduate teacher and hails from Donvale. At this stage Miss Young will be working on Mondays and Tuesdays and has already begun in the junior classroom,” Carole continued.

Bethaney has already fallen in love with the beautiful countryside and has experienced the friendliness of Mansfield people in the shops and the few people she has met in Merrijig.

What’s going on at the Merrijig Hall ?

Merrijig Hall at “Mansfield Do It”

March 31st 2014

It was a glorious afternoon weather-wise for Mansfield Shire to come together for the “Mansfield Do It” Festival. This was to showcase all that Mansfield Shire has to offer for the community to get involved in - from social activities to sports to volunteering opportunities. There was also information about career choices for our young people.

Our team from the Merrijig Hall consisted of Peter Howarth, Noel Willaton, Kerrie Purcell, Nicky Goudberg, Jim Blundell and Georgie Deyell.

This was a great opportunity for us to promote the hall so Nicky Goudberg and Georgie Deyell got dressed up to show that too, weddings can be held at the hall in true country style. Talking to passersby and getting in to the spirit of promoting the hall Nicky Goudberg and Jim



Blundell handed out FREE muffins and cake to encourage people to spend a little time at the hall site.

The Merrijig Public Hall can be hired for any event that you wish to hold there. It may be a wedding, engagement, birthday, dance, craft classes, family gatherings, funeral, exhibition or even to launch a book.

Contact Sen Weir on 0407 565 962

Thank you to TOAST for allowing us to share the marquee.



‘Cleansing’ working bee at the hall shed by Louise Jacob

The former CFA shed in Alpha St, Merrijig had a major clean out recently with loads of dated equipment accumulated over the years sorted, sold, given away and disposed of. There are still some items behind the old shed if anyone would like to see if there is something of use.

Many thanks to all the helpers and weed removers - it was a pretty dirty old job but has made loads of room in the shed.



Helpers Chris Dunlop and Jim Blundell taking a well-earned break during the clean-up

Flagpoles raised in time for ANZAC Day by Louise Jacob

During the working bee to clean out the shed, preparatory work was carried out for the installation of the two flagpoles. The hall committee was successful in its application for funding from the Shire of Mansfield through the 'Clubs and Groups Fund' so many thanks for Georgie Deyell's hard work and to the shire for making the funding available. Thank you to all helpers too.



At left Max Bloomfield and Peter Howarth set things right for the poles. The Australian and New Zealand Flags flying proudly from the new flagpoles in time for ANZAC Day - the next project is solar lighting for the flags

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

**when looking for a venue for a birthday party, wedding, family reunion
keep your community hall in mind it's there for your use.**

Call Sen Davies 0407 565 962 or 5777 5656

Some of the regular activities held at the hall include an exercise group and
craft group.

Further details at:

<http://www.merrijig.com.au/html/hall.html>



Alby (Wee Albert) seemed to thoroughly enjoy the visit by his sister Jackie Gemmill and nephew Paul who flew over to see him following his living wake, where his friends and acquaintances were so generous when the hat was passed around to enable this reuniting to take place.

Paul, Albert's nephew, had never been to Australia before and totally understands why his Uncle chose this to be his home and has sworn to return himself.

Welcome to Merrijig

Bethany Young is a new staff member at Merrijig School who started on Monday, April 28. Bethany will be working two days a week for the rest of the year. She's recently a graduate from Deakin University and is very excited about coming to join us at our little Merrijig Primary School.



Glenn Purcell and Bec Neely engaged

Congratulations to Glenn who is a plant operator around this district most often lately driving an excavator and to Bec is a nurse at Epworth Hospital.



Cass McCormack has become engaged to Jared Dixon in McKay, Queensland.



Bruce and Deb McCormack's second daughter Cass moved to McKay a few years ago for a fresh start and has now announced her engagement to "A really good bloke" according to Bruce.

Cass is a hair dresser and Jared works in the mines as an auto electrician. Congratulations Cass and Jared.

Guess who has been 30 years married as of 21st April?



Congratulations to Greg and Kerrie Purcell of Buttercup Road. Double celebrations with their son Glenn's engagement to Bec Neely.



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

Permits for the **roadside collection of firewood** are available from Mansfield Shire Council. An application can be made by completing the form attached, and returning to Council for issue of the permit . Permits are valid for one month from the date of issue.

There is great concern about the **loss of the financial counselling** service to our shire. Although the date passed for inclusion in the shires submissions your personal submissions to the Minister for Consumer Affairs, our local Rep Bill Sykes Emails or letters should go to the Minister:

Heidi Victoria : heidi.victoria@parliament.vic.gov.au
Or The Hon Heidi Victoria MP, Level 6 2 Kavanagh Street, Southbank Victoria 3004

And CC to :
Bill Sykes : bill.sykes@parliament.vic.gov.au
Or The Hon Bill Sykes MP, 2/55 Carrier Street Benalla Victoria 3672

Marg Attley : marg.attley@mansfield.vic.gov.au
Louise Knol: louise.knol@mansfield.vic.gov.au
Or Private Bag 1000 Mansfield Victoria 3724

The Shires web site has heaps of information for residents old and new. This below for instance outlines some of the community organizations available.

<http://www.mansfield.vic.gov.au/communityandbusinessdirectory/communitydirectory.aspx>

This one shows all sorts of useful information like bus timetables and the disabled parking system.

<http://www.mansfield.vic.gov.au/informationboard.aspx>

How about dining out occasionally?

Usually on a Wednesday evening on alternate weeks the ‘**Merrijig Dining out Mob**’ get together.

Last month it was at the Old Fire Station another dining outlet we have promised ourselves we will go back to as the menu is delicious and the staff are so happy and friendly.

At the end of the Old Fire Station restaurant dinner, Café 41 was chosen for the next venue and once again the menu and the company was delightful.

If you are free, please think about coming along to Mingo’s on May 7th. The venue for the next dinner out is decided when the dining out evening comes to an end, but you can be sure it will be a nice place to eat with friendly happy people for company.

All you need to do if the occasional dinner out interests you, is to 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)

I was reading a book which gave the meaning of the word mob which was :- a large crowd of people, especially one that is disorderly and intent on causing trouble or violence.

But this mob is nothing like that; they are only intent on sharing a happy meal together, having a few laughs and enjoying food none of the group had to cook.

Wild Dogs there will be aerial baiting in the near future in the meantime our contact person is David Klippel – if you are suspicious of wild dog action call him on 0428 503 169

Our local member **Bill Sykes MP**, provided this information on wild dog controls because this is part of his portfolio:-

“The Federal Coalition Government approved Victoria’s aerial baiting application late in March after the Victorian Coalition continually lobbied the Commonwealth for a common-sense approach,” the Minister for Agriculture and Food Security Mr Walsh said recently.

“Aerial baiting was a key election commitment of the Victorian Coalition, which I am proud to now see being fulfilled. The Department of Environment and Primary Industries will begin aerial baiting at three sites each, in North East Victoria and East Gippsland in May. On top of this, we are also providing livestock producers in Gippsland and North East Victoria with increased access to fresh 1080 baits as part of an interstate trial program.”

Dr Sykes said farmers now had two extra weapons in the fight against wild dogs, in addition to a number of control initiatives the Victorian Coalition Government had already implemented since 2011:

- introducing a bounty on wild dogs which has already eradicated 1,149 dogs;
- expanding community baiting programs;
- * cut red tape so wild dog controllers can work outside the 3km buffer zone;
- * baiting deeper than ever into remote Crown land areas;
- * reintroducing Lanes traps; and
- * establishing the Wild Dog Control Advisory Committee.

“Helping to control wild dogs in Victoria is a key priority. The vicious pests prey on newborn lambs and calves, as well as native fauna, causing both emotional and financial hardship for rural communities,” Mr Walsh said.

For more information on aerial baiting visit www.depi.vic.gov.au/wilddogs

To view a interstate 1080 bait supply fact sheet and eligible parishes visit www.depi.vic.gov.au/1080



We need you....Are you interested in Alpine History?

Volunteers enable the museum to maintain daily operations, provide programs and facilitate events. We are currently recruiting volunteers to become part of our team. If you can commit some time we can find a suitable role for you.

www.nama.org.au/

Email: info@nama.org.au

Merrijig Rodeo

This Sunday, May 4, is the official presentation to this year's beneficiaries and thank you lunch by the Merrijig Rodeo committee. It will be held at the Merrijig Motor Inn. It's the rodeo committee's way of expressing its appreciation for all the hard work so many groups put in to make the rodeo the event that it is.

We'll be able to report next month on the outcome of the dispersal of funds.

Bruce McCormack has signed up two more VCAL students

For the next two years, two young people, now in Year 11, will learn first-hand about animal husbandry and various other farming skills.

One of the students is a young man, Luke Jenkins, whose family are friends of the McCormacks, while the other is a keen young Merrijig girl, Ashleigh Jurrjens.

Already these teenagers have worked alongside Bruce and Deb when they were on trail rides, tended to the horses and cared for the tack. They have been with Bruce when young cattle needed to be moved from one property to another in preparation for calving as well as weaning calves. While they do these jobs, Bruce instructs them on what they need to look for in a good animal, like the width of their hind section in comparison to the rest of the body and strength of the shoulders and neck.

Bruce commented "There were no places around to learn how to be a farmer or about animal husbandry so readily when I was learning and indeed when my father was learning." He went on to say "We learned by observation and talking to other farmers, or as a kid by being yelled at for making a mistake you didn't even know you were making." "Now," he said "these young people keen on learning about farming can go to Dookie College for a week at a time and actually be taught how to be a farmer, they come back and practise on me." He laughed.

Over the next few months they will, as well as being involved with the calving and gaining and understanding on how the mating system happens, Bruce will take the two kids to a bull sale and see how much they have learned about what would make a good sire for the next few years calves from what he has told them and what they learned at Dookie.

They will be assisting in repairing, replacing and building new fences and of course continue to care for the trail ride horses and be involved in the calving therefore gaining an understanding of why the mating season is for a specific time, allowing the calves to be born in a short time slot, making the young animals almost the same size, which is better for when they go to market to be sold.

This is a wonderful opportunity, being provided by Bruce and Deb McCormack for these teenagers who do not live on a farm and therefore do not have ready access to working on a property, but whose love for animals and the country life gives them a thirst for learning about what farming life is all about.

News from McCormack Park

Remember last month I told you about an idea that has been growing in the community over the last few months, well It's a goer - and it will be called the

Merrijig Family Fun Day



On Sunday, November, 2014

There will be kids games and a lolly scramble

Fun pony events and competitions
just for fun - like the pony with the longest tail

A horse obstacle course to test the riders and the horse
(not a very tough course first off)

Dogs are also included with a dog jump contest

Fun and games for all ages (like a tug of war)

A vintage tractor display and possibly a ploughing event

As well as some vintage motorbikes on display

A Ute muster has been suggested too!

And this is just the start of the activities planned.

What is extra good is this is driven by the local community, and is for the benefit of the community. There are volunteers who are on a 'co-ordination committee' which will bring together in a program, all the events that people with a particular interest in that one area will work on together and report to the co-ordination committee with their progress or requests for assistance. The co-ordination committee will do all the paperwork like event management planning and organising funding and insurance.

Another positive with this event is that any organisation, group or club who wants to run a part of the fun day can do that and raise money for their own organisation. So for instance, Rhyll McCormack offered to run the pony events as a fundraiser for the

kindergarten. With her supporters they can decide what events they will have and organise the program to suit themselves. If the kindergarten wants to they can for instance also have a raffle to raise extra money.

As the weeks go by, more ideas will come out about how the fun day will be presented.

Keep this in mind for your group and present the idea at the next meeting whether it be hospital auxiliary, Art Society, sporting club or the local hall and work out how you can be part of this new fun day because this will give an opportunity to any club or organisation in the district to do whatever they are keen on and help them to raise funds.

Not everyone has time to get involved in the organisation side of things but just the same would like to be part of the event on the day (or in the immediate lead up to the day). There is a group called 'Friends of McCormack Park' being created and if you would like to be part of this group, to be called on when needed, this is how you can be part of the excitement when you don't have a lot of time to spare. If this interests you send me an email or give me a call on 5777 5637 and I will add your name and number to the growing list.

Training day at McCormack Park

At the end of March a group of horse enthusiasts held a training day at McCormack Park.

Shelly Haley, who was the contact person, commented "It is very generous of you to allow locals free use of McCormack Park. I'm sure I can speak for everyone in our little group and say that we would like to at least make a small contribution towards the upkeep and we have put together a donation to the McCormack Park improvement fund. It's not much but we felt that we wanted to contribute something towards the upkeep as it is such a fantastic venue now and so good of you to allow people to use your land in this way. I'm sure we will be wanting to use it again in the not too distant future!!"

😊 "We had a very successful and enjoyable day on Sunday, despite a VERY soggy start!! The arena was a little too wet and boggy so we used the grassy area just below the main arena. The arena did seem to be draining and was probably quite OK by the following day but it did cop a fair bit of rain Sunday morning so it's not really surprising that it was a bit soggy!!" Shelly went on to say

"I'm looking forward to booking our next lesson already!!" said Shelly 😊

Thanks to the early work by Merrijig Rodeo and Sports Association and more recent consistent improvements by Merrijig Campdraft the venue is amazing. Keep it in mind if you need an open space for a special event. I once had a McAulay Clan gathering lunch there with a barbecue and a bit of music with the High Country Pipes and Drums. It is free for the use of the locals, so just drop me a line or phone to see if it is free on the date you need.

Campdraft News

It was decided after the 2013 draft that, at the request of our major cattle donor, the date be moved back to late November, and this is under consideration at the moment so that a decision can be made in the near future when the committee meet again.

The Merrijig Campdraft were also approached with a request to host the annual 'Women in Campdraft' fundraising clinic this year.

The invitation went on to say, "The aim of 'Women in Campdrafting' is two-fold. Firstly we aim to improve the status of women in Campdrafting through skill enhancement and increased self-confidence in a supportive, fun and non-threatening atmosphere. Secondly we aim to raise money for the McGrath Foundation and raise 'breast cancer awareness.'

'Women in Campdrafting' is a two-day Campdrafting school specifically for women aged 17 and over, who currently compete or would like to compete in Campdrafting. After five events, we are proud to have raised just over \$20,000 for the McGrath Foundation and achieved our aim of running inspiring weekends for Campdraft women.

Although we wish we could take everyone, we have found that a limit of 60 riders is a manageable number of participants. We like to take the opportunity promote women's health and breast cancer awareness and often the local breast care nurse will do a presentation."

The date, secretary Andrea Pickett said, would probably be September 20/21. The club was nominated by a participant in last year's event as the venue was described as perfect.

Both these decisions will have to be formally voted on at the next meeting, Andrea said, but so far the feedback via emails had been in favour of both moving the event to late November and hosting the Women's Day.

Mansfield Bushwalking Club - *Merrijig contact Jackie Noble*

Announcing the Mansfield Bushwalking Club walks via the newsletter.

The club is welcoming all levels of walkers of all ages

The Club has been going for around 18 months and has organised

The first club gathering is - Monday, May 19
7pm at Hotel Delatite

Members and prospective members all welcome.

**Short presentation by David & Jackie Smithwick
"Patagonia - our inexperienced experience"**

Come and socialise together.

Consider having a meal beforehand.

Thanks to the Delatite for providing the venue.

Club gatherings every third month (next in July)) - speakers/presenters sought

All members and prospective members welcome.

☀️ **On MAY 10th** walk the **MITCHELL BRIDLE TRACK** ☀️

An exciting 24 km **Overnight Hike** of **moderate** grade
(this is suitable for beginners).



There will be an Introduction evening to overnight hiking on a date to be advised prior to the walk. If this grabs your interest please book with Maureen Englefield on 0419 307 509.

The start of trail is 7.5 kms from Jamieson. The track follows the forests and meandering course of the Jamieson River for 24 kms and links the Granny's Flat Camping Reserve to Mitchell's Flat.

Opportunities exist to identify tree species including those commonly seen along the trail being the beautiful Manna Gum, Broad-leaved Peppermint, Blue Gum and Stringybark species. Along the Bridle track, there are two sites of historical significance, the remnants of the Quicksilver mercury mine and the dwellings of the Mitchell and Hoskins families at Mitchell's Flat.

Check Mansfield Bushwalking Club website <http://www.mansfieldbushwalking.com/> for the overnight hike check list.

This walk's leader is Maureen Englefield on the phone number above or maureen@virtual.net.au

She will be assisted by the co-leader, Nigel Watts.

Motorbike Club - the place to learn safe riding practices

Mansfield Motorcycle Grass Track Tri-Series was held on Sunday, April 27 on Stoney's property at the end of Soldiers Lane, Barwite. Even though they were away from the club venue at Merrijig, the MMC created a suitable track including one specially set up for the beginners and the qualified coaches ran training sessions throughout the day.

All motorcycles on site were presented for safety scrutineering prior to use as per normal practices. The comments from members shown below indicated that clearly this was a very successful day and a great pleasure for everyone involved.

Grass Track fun day



Photo by Lee-Ann Campagnola of Blue Ribbon Images

Carolyn Garlick congratulated MMC Committee on Facebook for a fabulous first round of grass track. “My lad had a great time. Also special thanks to Chris Stoney for kindly allowing us to ride on his property today,” she wrote on Sunday last week.



Photo by Bianca Sheeran

Photo by Robert Deeble - “What a great day. I think it's safe to say that everyone had a ball.”

“As always MMC put on a fabulous day. Great job by the committee - you deserve a huge round of applause. I loved seeing all the kids have a great day and come away unscathed. I particularly loved the dusting and rooster tails!!” Jane Parks added.

And the favourable comments just kept on coming as from Bianca Sheeran who said “Thanks MMC for a great family day. I took this shot of the little ones lining up for a race on the track!!!”

Paul Harrop offered one bit of constructive criticism when he said “It was an awesome day and a great property to run it on with a great layout of the track. A water cart is definitely

needed when conditions are like that as it got a bit dangerous after the first round riding blind through the dust. Just a suggestion for next time anyways. Thanks for the great day out.”

What a wonderful opportunity for the young riders to have a taste of something different to do with their families. The way all the mums and dads get in there and help on the track makes the days so successful and bonds families together by having enjoyable experiences. A club like the MMC is really valuable in any community and we can be very proud of our motorcycle club, of all the committee, all the members and all the parents.



HUNT CLUB HOTEL

OPENING HOURS

Monday to Thursday from 2.00 p.m.
Friday, Saturday Sunday from 11.00 a.m.
Bistro opens 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 5.30pm – 7.30pm
Bar Snacks & Prize Draw at 7.30pm
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 so you won't miss out.***





Live Music



SATURDAY, JUNE 7, 2014

John-Luke Shelley & High Speed Steel

Meals from 6.00pm

Entertainment from 8.30pm (Free Entry)

Bookings Recommended

What else is going on at the Merrijig Hall?



"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 Korrie on 04 3738 0384



At Merrijig Hall
On Tuesdays
between 10 to 12
& only costing \$5.00

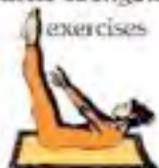



Waste Group

Don't do any of these workouts pictured.

Its good fun & light muscle strengthening exercises




Ever needed a face painter ?

Keep Michele in mind for when you find you need a childrens' entertainer.

o 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.

For excellent laundry service locally try:

AG's
Laundry Services



4 Stirling St Merrijig
Juliet Mobile 0419 210468
Merrijig Office: (03) 5777 5967

NOW FOR A FINAL GOOD LAUGH!

HOW I LEARNED TO MIND MY OWN BUSINESS:

I was walking past the mental hospital the other day, and all the patients were shouting, "13...13...13."

The fence was too high to see over, but I saw a little gap in the planks, so I looked through to see what was going on.

Some idiot poked me in the eye with a stick, then they all started shouting, "14...14...14."



Bye for now Adele

Adele McCormack
45 McCormacks Rd
Merrijig 3723

☎ 03 5777 5637 Mobile: 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