

Merrijig Matters

Merrijig's Monthly Newsletter

September 2014

Issue No. 17

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Quote of the month

When you have to start compromising yourself or your morals for the people around you, it's probably time to change the people around you.



Dr Phil McGrath

This and archived 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**, our local JP is

Laurie Jacob, Buttercup Rd

0439 280 333

New News

Newsletter email address, I have set up a web based email address for the newsletter as I am heading OS in a couple of weeks and will not be around to put the October newsletter together and then send it off. Louise Jacob has agreed to complete that issue and to make it easier for her to send it out and not miss anyone I have created this email address just for the newsletter.

From now on if you have news to share via this media, **please use this new email address**, as when I am away I will not be checking my emails at all.

merrijignewsletter@gmail.com is where you need to direct your articles, or promos for the upcoming activities of groups you belong to. Please remember to welcome your new neighbours via the community newsletter and share a few pictures of your most recent or exciting holiday adventure.

I am sure you will all join me in thanking Louise for accepting the challenge yet she has been a journo before and it's much like getting back on a bike, you don't forget.

September 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Bingo for the school at the golf club eyes down 8 sharp	2	3	4 Rubbish & Recycle Bin	5 GO Merrijig school at the athletic sports	6
7	8	9 PUB TRIVIA	10	11 Rubbish Bin Merrijig dinng out mob at the Noodle shop	12	13
14	15	16	17	18 Rubbish & Recycle Bin	19	20 Women in campdraft clinic at McCormack Park
21 Motorbike club day	22	23 PUB TRIVIA	24 Retune for TV signal	25 Rubbish Bin	26	27
28	29	30 Flying start grant applications close	Note that the candle making workshop is on Oct 11th . You will need to book if this interestes you		Note that Wizard and Oz are at the golf club on Oct 18th . It would pay to book for this at the golf club.	



Merrijig township rezoning meeting

This meeting was held at the Merrijig Hall on Saturday, August 30 to discuss the progress since the first community consultation meeting a few months ago. Mansfield Shire's Development Services Manager, Michael Bismire, was introduced by our local councillor, Marg Attley, to the 26 locals attending the morning meeting (*there were five apologies from people who are also very interested*).

At this meeting Michael outlined the successful co-operation between the Council, the surveyor, Rody Macey, who is working for some of the land owners, Cr Marg Attley and locals Peter Howarth and Noel Willaton. The latter two residents had suggested at the earlier meeting that a Concept Plan for Merrijig be incorporated in the re-zoning proposal, so the community could see where it sat within the broader plan for the town.

Council considered and agreed to that suggestion, and Noel, Peter, Rody and Council officers developed the plan tabled at the meeting.

Some of the areas already looked at were the boundaries of the rezoning, public open space and various other features, including VicRoads requirements re access points to the Mt Buller Road and flood prone areas. Michael also mentioned that there are already in place overlays which will regulate any future land development, for example there is a 20 metres 'setback' from the Mt Buller Road. This means that there can be no development within 20 metres of this busy road without a planning permit.

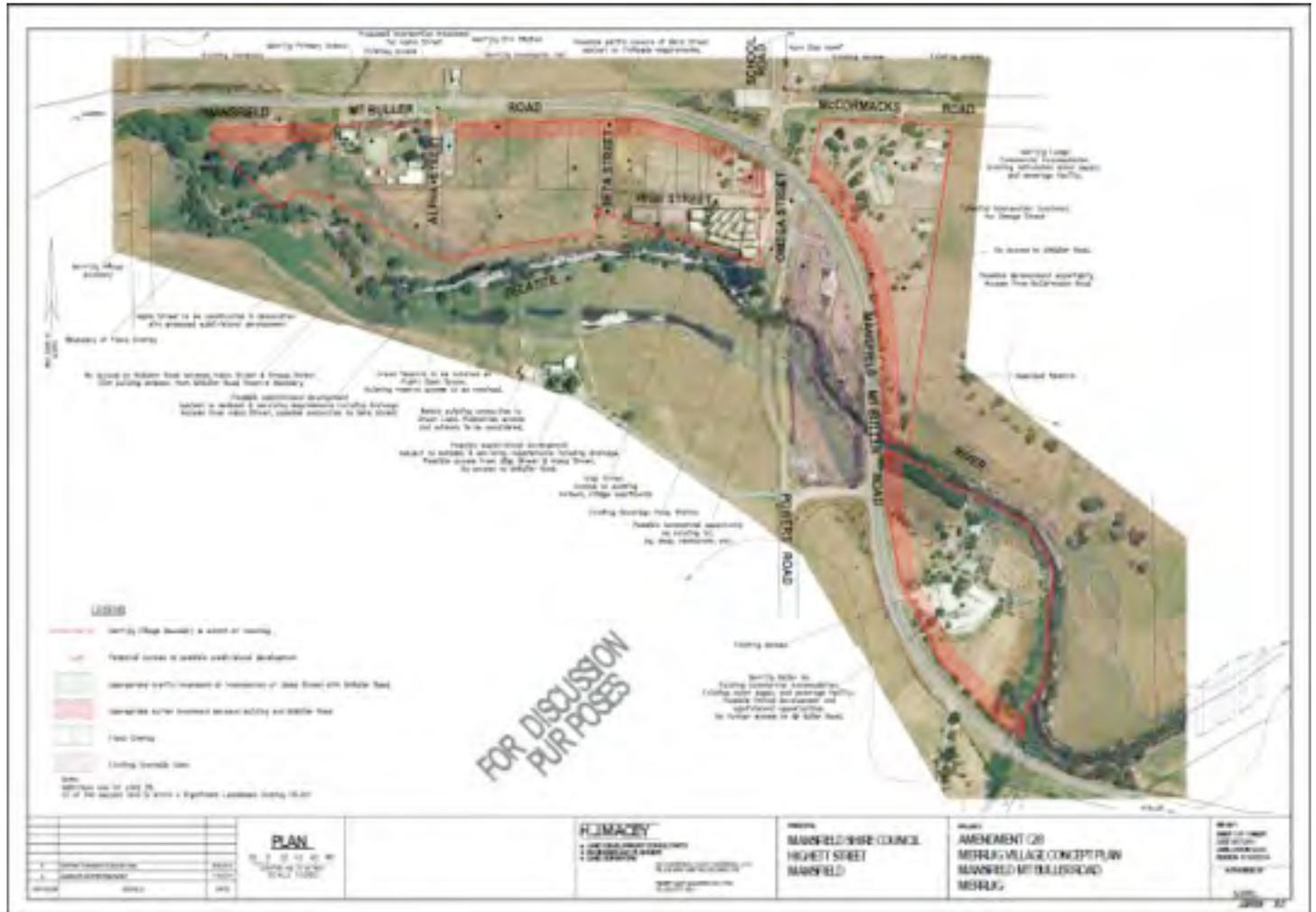
The people involved in creating the concept plan to date were happy to present it for consideration by the whole Merrijig Community. Everyone now has a chance to contact Council planners if they have any further issues about the rezoning and their concerns will be considered if sent in within a specified time frame, likely to be set for the end of October.

Everyone at the meeting was invited to view the two images provided in very large format, on two tables, which clearly shows the plan on a satellite image as well as a line plan version.

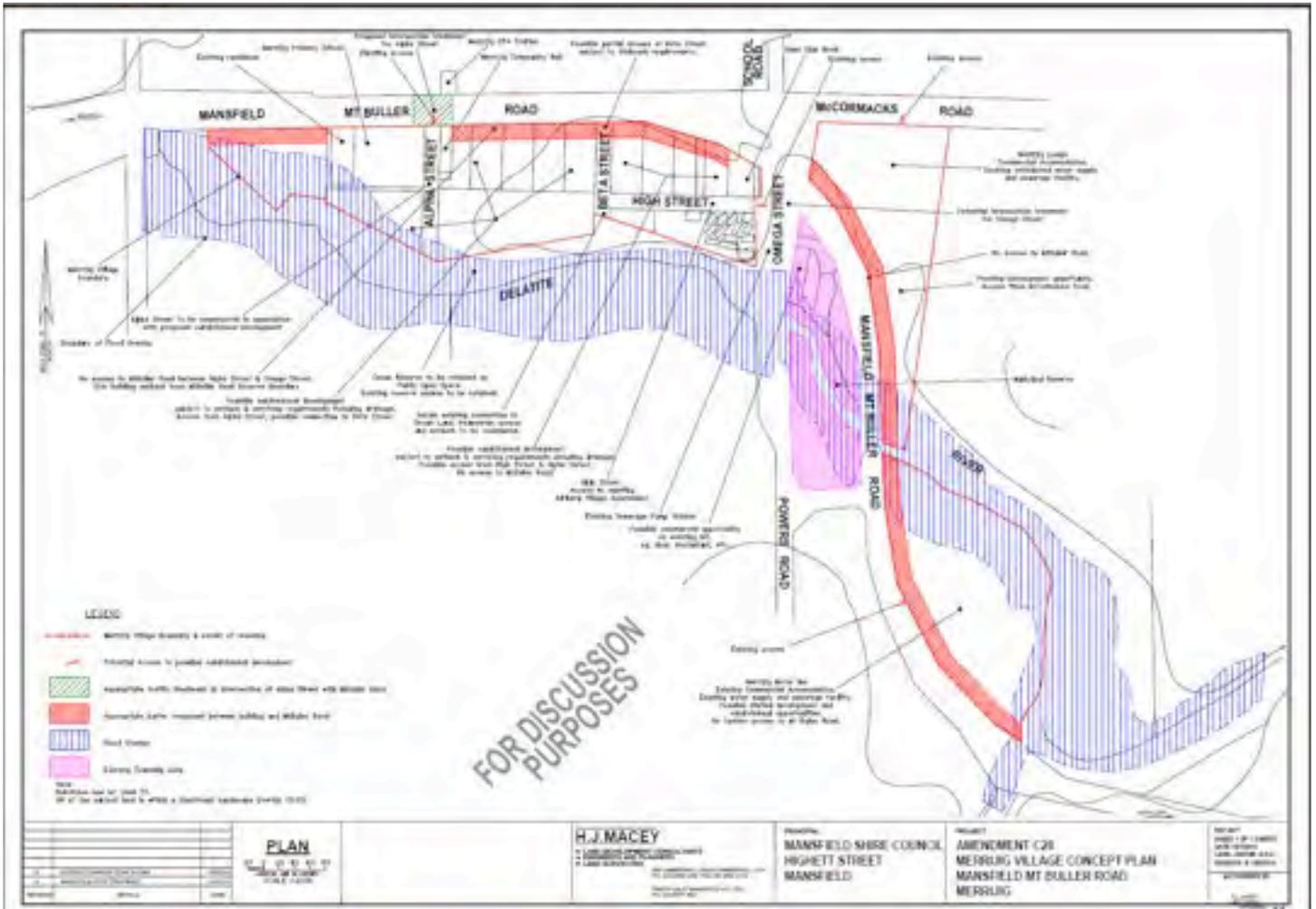
Marg Attley invited Peter to speak regarding his view of the process they had undertaken. Peter reported that he and Noel were pleased at the level of consideration of issues raised and the resultant plan and thanked Council, Michael, Victoria and Rody. He mentioned that there were some aspects of concern to the community that did not get into this concept plan, for various technical/procedural reasons which once they had been explained by Council staff

these issues were found to be quite acceptable and that he now fully supported the proposed rezoning. Peter went on to mention that during the next year there will be a 'review of the entire Mansfield Planning Scheme' and the work done in this particular exercise will be a useful tool for the community when participating in that review, which hopefully would result in a formal Structure Plan for Merrijig. This would more comprehensively address the many town planning issues raised by the community over the last decade. In consultation with the Vice President of the Hall Committee, Louise Jacob, standing in for the Committee President, Noel Willaton, Peter mentioned that the Hall Committee will be withdrawing their objection to the rezoning proposal following the successful concept plan development.

Michael mentioned that there has not been a planning scheme review since 1999 – 2000 so it is somewhat overdue for an update and is in the schedule for next year.



Above is the satellite image of the area covered by the proposed re-zoning. For those interested there is one on display at the Merrijig Public Hall, where the meeting was held.



The line drawing which clearly shows the proposal. This is also on display at the hall.

Who's doing what lately?



Peter Arundel with Patrick, one of his sons and his daughter, Emily, recently returned from a wonderful motorbike-riding trip through Utah in the USA.

“I have been doing an event for the last 22 years,” Peter explained, “It’s called The Great Race and it’s a reliability trail for Indian and pre-1957 Harley Davidsons.”

“Recently a US dealer has latched onto the idea and started doing the same event in the USA.” He went on to explain. “I went for the first one three years ago and decided to take 16 bikes across for his third one in Utah.”

“So we shipped the bikes to Las Vegas unloaded the container and rode to Utah. My son Patrick, rode his 1939 Indian and Emily went on the back of my 1936 Indian.”

Peter was happy to share his trip news with me. “Emily only decided to come three days before we left so I didn’t have time to fit a pillion seat, so she just took the pillow out of the motel room and strapped it to the rack then found a piece of plastic conduit to rest her feet on as you can see in the photo.”



Peter went on to explain “Emily has a 1939 Indian Sports Scout so if she had let me know earlier I could have sent that over. My other son Angus, who has a 1937 Indian was playing State rugby so couldn’t come which he wasn’t happy about.”

Together the three Arundel’s did three days of the US Great Race and then took off for a week touring through the National Parks of Utah covering Zion, Bryce, Monument Valley and the south rim of the Grand Canyon. After which they returned to Las Vegas and repacked the container for the return trip to Australia. Over the three weeks following packing up the container, Emily and Peter went to Mexico, Cuba and finally back to Los Angeles.



“We got caught in a snow storm with 80 km wind at 8000 ft elevation.” Peter mentioned and included this picture just for the record.

From Merrijig to Moresby with love

On Tuesday, September 2 another 1,000 children's books will leave Merrijig for Papua New Guinea.

Anna and Phoebe Parsons of Glenroy Road, have carefully collected, cleaned and repaired over 2,000 books that have found their way to Port Moresby and beyond. Buk bilong Pikinini is an independent, not-for-profit, organisation based in Port Moresby, that has established small libraries for children throughout the country. There are now 16 libraries, some near settlements, clinics and in market places all over PNG.

Most children in PNG do not have access to books and literacy levels are extremely low, in some regions less than five per cent. Almost half of school age children in PNG are currently not enrolled at school and many children remain illiterate for life - with no access to public libraries or books.

Anna walked the Kokoda Track, with her father Bill, two years ago when she was 13 and was really struck by the sparsely resourced schools and non-existent libraries in the country. Being an absolute bookworm since she was a toddler, the lack of books really struck a chord and Anna has loved the challenge of finding just the right books to send to PNG. Anna and Phoebe have had a lot of support from the community and would especially like to thank the generosity of Sally and Jeremy Madin, Alison Williams and family, the Tehan family, Heather Doyle and the Suggate family - all who have donated their much loved children's books to this fantastic cause. Librarian at Timbertop, Pam Jones, has also been generous in her donations as has the Mansfield Rudolf Steiner School community.

Buk bilong Pikinini is always grateful for donations of books, puzzles and teachers aids. If you can put together a package of 300 books they can arrange the shipping. Next Easter, Phoebe

aged 14, will be walking the Kokoda Track with Keldon Tokunai, the Papua New Guinean girl we featured last winter. Keldon has now finished her year as an assistant at Timbertop and has returned home after endearing herself to everyone in our community.

For further information please click on www.bukbilongpikinini.org/



At left, Phoebe and her sister Anna Parsons are two caring young ladies sharing their love of books with children from PNG.

Do you know about Concession stamps???



If you are you a Federal Government concession card holder, you're eligible for a concession rate when sending regular letters within Australia. You just need a MyPost Concession Account.

You can only use concession stamps to send small and large letters within Australia. They can't be used for parcels or to send anything overseas.

Apply for a free MyPost Concession Account at

<http://auspost.com.au/media/documents/MyPost-Concession-Account-application-form.pdf>

Concession stamps are sold in booklets of five for \$3.00.

That's 60 cents per stamp as opposed to 70 cents per stamp for non-concession holders.

See the guide for how many stamps you'll need to put on your letters for delivery within Australia.

What are you sending?	How many concession stamps?
Small letter up to 50g =	1 stamp
Large letter up to 125g =	2 stamps
Large letter up to 250g =	3 stamps
Large letter up to 500g =	5 stamps

Benefits if you are able to register for a My Post concession account are

- Free booklet of five concession stamps
- Ability to purchase up to 50 concession stamps per year
- Discount on Mail Hold and Mail Redirection
- A free MyPost Concession Card and digital mailbox

How to apply

1. Check if you're eligible using the list below
2. Complete and print out the application form (the link above)
3. Take the form to your closest post office, along with your valid Federal Government concession card
4. Receive your free booklet of five stamps and your MyPost card in the mail within 14 days



Retune date for digital TV



for our area is listed as MOST LIKELY to be

September 24 around 3:30 pm

<http://retune.digitalready.gov.au/your-retune-info>

Check for yourself if you are not in the Mansfield Area.

Singer's local connection



Former Merrijig resident, John Steele's niece, Liz Stringer is a singer songwriter. She performs at various gigs around Victoria and the Melbourne suburbs as well as music festivals around the country. She has even recently been to 'The Folk Alliance International Conference' in Kansas City USA, where she performed her original songs in solo performances.

Apart from the trip to the USA, Liz has performed at Queenscliff, Port Fairy, Byron Bay and others. "Many of her ideas for songs come from her own experience, family stories, or daily life." John said, "She spent a lot of time with us at Merrijig and really enjoyed school holidays when she could visit." "I think she also spent a few weeks at Merrijig Primary School" he remembered "Just for the experience of a rural school."

They would often go up to hills on the horses, usually to the top of the Glenroy Hills giving them spectacular views of Mansfield.



Liz at Merrijig about 1992, on Tony the Pony

The song "The High Open Hills" was inspired by that view, the story of the travelling man could be any one of the many characters who pass through Merrijig and Buller. "We meet them often" John said. A link to this song 'The High Open Hills', from her Album 'Warm in the Darkness' is provided here <http://youtu.be/eSZc7bGxS5s>



"I am sure you will enjoy it." John added.

More about Liz can be found on her web page <http://lizstringer.com>



AUSTRALIA'S FIRST MILITARY OPERATION OF WORLD WAR 1 ACHIEVES OBJECTIVE

Written by Graham Godber, Mansfield RSL Historian

This coming week will mark the centenary of the first off-shore military action undertaken by Australian Forces in World War 1. Shortly after the Declaration of War by Britain on August 5, 1914, the British War Office requested Australia to seize and destroy German wireless stations located on various German colonial possessions in the Pacific region. These facilities provided vital communication with, and between, the German East Asiatic Naval Squadron operating in the West Pacific and Indian Oceans.

After some early action by RAN forces it was decided to form a joint naval and army contingent to undertake the task. From August 11 a force of some 1000 infantry volunteers and 500 naval reservists was formed and given the title, Australian Naval and Military Expeditionary Force (ANMEF).



Pictured are German New Guinea locals being trained in military drill by German Reservists, shortly before the arrival of the Australian Naval and Military Expeditionary Force.

Leaving Sydney on August 19, on the troopship Berrima, the ANMEF sailed to Port Moresby to rendezvous with RAN ships, HMAS Australia, cruisers Sydney and Encounter, and escorting destroyers and submarines.



The Australian squadron entering Simpson Harbour, Rabaul, in September 1914.

Departing September 7, the force landed a detachment of mainly naval reservists near Rabaul to destroy the wireless station at Bitapaka some five miles inland. After meeting strong resistance from a garrison of German and local forces the task was eventually accomplished but at a cost of a number of casualties including four naval personnel and an Army doctor killed. These became the first Australian forces casualties of the war. The ANMEF was to go on to destroy numerous other German wireless facilities, capturing Bougainville and other colonial possessions, and eventually, on September 17, obtained the formal surrender of all of German New Guinea.



September 17, 1914 - Dr Haber & Captain von Klewitz arriving to confer with Colonel Holmes regarding the Terms of Capitulation by the Germans.

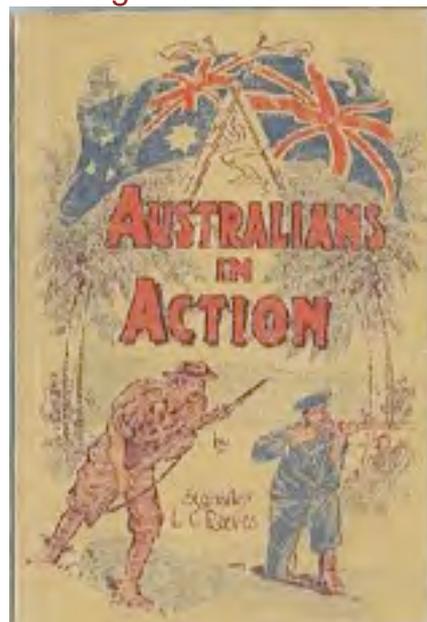


AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

H1 2578

The Australian flag being raised with an official party standing by as the Proclamation advising the Australian Naval and Military Expeditionary Force was taking control of German New Guinea – Angorur, New Guinea December 16, 1914 (Photo Source: Australian War Memorial)

Although success of the expedition was also marred by the loss of the RAN submarine AE1, which disappeared without trace with the loss of the entire crew of 35, it contributed a vital element to the eventual clearance of enemy warships from the Pacific and Indian Oceans enabling troop convoys and merchant shipping from Australia and New Zealand to sail unmolested to Britain and Europe throughout the war.



Australasian News Co 1915. An account of the Australian Naval & Military Expeditionary Forces capture of New Guinea from the Germans in 1914.

Photographs and pictures have been taken from the web. Many from the Australian War Museum collection.

Merrijig School News

Bingo Night **Tonight** eyes down at 8 sharp at the golf club. Meals available from 6pm in the restaurant.

Friday, September 5, is the School Athletics Sports day *Go Merrijig*.

What's going on at the Merrijig Hall ?

Merrijig's magnificent quilt is in place

After about two years' work by many people the Merrijig Community Quilt is hanging proudly in the Merrijig Public Hall.



It depicts various aspects of community life as seen through the eyes of the quilters. About 12 people took part in the project co-ordinated by Ann Herbert with assistance from Robyn Purdy, Kerrie Purcell and Linda Tucker.

Plans are afoot to recognise the quilt as an important part of Merrijig's history. Keep an eye out in next month's newsletter for some detailed photos of some of the panels and a little background to those quilters involved.

New look for Merrijig Hall committee

Merrijig Public Hall committee has adopted forest green polo shirts to be worn at various events where committee members need to be easily identified. Each shirt has a neatly embroidered line drawing of the hall in white stitching.

These shirts complement the aprons purchased two years ago which have proved useful when working a barbecue and other activities.



Some of the committee are pictured from left at rear Noel Willaton, Louise Jacob, Laurie Jacob. Front left Sen Weir, Kerrie Purcell and Georgie Deyell.



The embroidery on the shirts which clearly depicts the hall.

MERRIJIG HALL IS AVAILIABLE 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 its there for your use.**

Call Sen Weir 0407 565 962 or 5777 5656.

For activities at the hall scroll down to Page 32.

Merrijig Family Fun Day



Put this on your calendar

Sunday, November 2

There will be kids games and a lolly scramble.

There will be fun pony events

and competitions just for fun – like the pony with the longest tail.

There will be 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 with no particular skills required

There will be a vintage tractor display and possibly a plowing 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.



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

Jetstar's community giving program **Flying Start** is back again in 2014!

Designed to help not-for-profit groups and organisations make a difference in the local community, **Flying Start** is now open for VIC and TAS organisations to enter.

Local groups have until September 30 to submit applications for a \$30,000 grant, made up of \$15,000 worth of Jetstar travel to further their reach and impact and \$15,000 cash to enhance the lives of people in their local community.

For more information visit the [Jetstar Flying Start website](#)

Hello all,

We have recently come across a couple of grants with very short timelines which can put community groups in a pickle getting their applications ready.

So, how do you get around this?

- First up, have a strategic or business plan for your group so you know from year to year what you wish to achieve. Then, prioritise your aims and projects into high and lower priority and short, medium and long time frames.
- Take your high priority projects and scope them out – cost estimates and budgets, time frames, project plans, permissions etc etc. Also draft the details that will be asked by a funding body – the what, why, who and how. Once you have all of this ready, park it in a safe place and keep your eyes and ears open for funding opportunities – Mansfield alone has three funding bodies offering regular grant rounds and there are groups such as FRRR (see below) that fund community projects.
- Once you have found a grant round that suits your project, you can quickly pull together an application without any panic – funding bodies love projects that are clearly well planned out.

The FRRR has a Small Grants for Small Rural Communities round open at present -

Provider: Foundation for Rural & Regional Renewal (FRRR)

Purpose: To provide grants to benefit people in rural and remote communities

Overview: This grant program will offer at least \$400,000 in grants to benefit small rural, regional and remote Australian communities.

Criteria for the program are broad. In the most recent round, funded projects ranged from the installation of air-conditioning in the community hall at Balaklava, South Australia (population 1827), to a program called “Bend and stretch: 100 better spines for Gippsland farmers”, which aims to reduce spinal and joint injuries in farmers in this part of Victoria.

Grants of up to \$5000 are available for projects and activities that offer clear public benefit for small communities in rural and remote locations in Australia.

Priority is given to communities with fewer than 10,000 people. However, communities with populations up to 15,000 are welcome to apply.

Website: <http://www.frrr.org.au/grants/small-grants-for-rural-communities-round26>

Cheers

Sue, Kirsten and Dan

Community development team

The Victorian Department of Health has developed a short video and interactive website to help community groups understand and meet their food safety obligations when selling food to raise funds in Victoria.

The video provides an informative insight into community fund-raising activities while the website covers a range of topics, including community group obligations under the Victorian Food Act.

The website has been designed especially for first time users and those whose first language is other than English.

One of the key features of the website is a simple, interactive decision tree that takes users through a series of questions to arrive at their food premises' classification.

After working through the decision tree, event organisers are directed to the appropriate business registration/notification system, depending on their food handling activities. For example, a food van or stall organiser will be directed to the online Streetrader system.

The decision tree is hosted on the Department of Health food safety website.

To view the website and video please go to www.health.vic.gov.au/foodfundraisers

If you have any questions about the resources on the website, please email: foodsafety@health.vic.gov.au

Plenty of information such as for cake stalls:



Cake stalls

You need to know ...

If your community group:

- sells food solely for the purposes of raising funds for charity, or
- is a not-for-profit body

This information will help you understand your responsibilities under the Food Act 1984, and your role in keeping food safe.

If a volunteer makes a cake at home and donates it for sale at a community cake stall, that person is not selling the food.

While everyone is encouraged to handle food safely, volunteers do not need to register their home as food premises with the council.

Food premises classes

The Food Act controls the sale of food in Victoria. Its main purpose is to protect people from food borne illness.

The Act groups different types of food premises into four separate classes based on the food safety risks of their highest risk food handling activity. Different requirements for each class of food premises spell out what must be done to make sure that food sold is safe to eat.

Of course, your group is free to sell any kind of food activities, as long as you meet the food safety requirements that apply to that premises class and have the required approval under the Food Act.

Cooked cakes without cream fillings – class 4

Cake stalls selling only cooked cakes, that do not contain fillings made from fresh cream or uncooked eggs, are class 4 temporary food premises.

Class 4 premises may use mock-cream fillings, as mock-cream does not require refrigeration. They may also sell other baked items, such as biscuits or dough.

Class 4 involves the lowest level of regulation, due to the low food safety risk involved.



If you are selling this kind of cake or baked goods from a stall, you need to complete a short notification form about your temporary food premises. Give this to your principal council (see below). Contact council to obtain the form. The notification is a once-off requirement. It does not need to be resubmitted annually, or each time you operate.

When this form has been approved by your principal council, you can operate the stall in any council district, under the Food Act provided that you lodge a statement of trade advertising that council about where and when you will be operating. Contact your principal council to obtain the statement of trade form, or download it from www.health.vic.gov.au/foodsafety

You are not required to have a food safety program or a food safety supervisor.

Any council in which district you operate may inspect your stall at any time – for a spot check to make sure that food is safe, or if any complaints are received.

Free food handler learning program

Volunteers are encouraged to complete the free online learning program, [defoodssafety](http://defoodssafety.vic.gov.au), to improve their knowledge of safe food handling.

The program is interactive and free. It takes about an hour to complete the six topics on food safety and a final quiz. Participants who score more than 90 percent on the quiz are awarded a certificate.

You can find the program at <http://defoodssafety.health.vic.gov.au>



Department of Health

How about dining out occasionally?

Usually on a Wednesday evening on alternate weeks the 'Merrijig Dining out Mob' get together.

Next time is on Thursday, September 9 at the Noodle Shop from 6:30 pm.

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)

Come and join the dining out mob.....

One last photo of full snow on Buller

Just before the weather became springlike Anton Grimus took this photo of the Firewatch Tower. He was happy for me to share it with you all via the newsletter



PS: As can happen a great snowfall of 20 cms fell on the night of September 1 freshening up the mountains beautifully.

Merrijig Rodeo - Nothing to report at this stage.

Motorbike Club – the place to learn safe riding practices

Next club day is Sunday, September 21

The normal bike day was altered to accommodate the footy finals which many of the young bikers were playing in, so instead of Sunday, everyone showed up on Saturday and had a great time.



Ben Adams' photo shows some of the older kids "taking air" on the advanced track.



Mike Davies pictures shows the creek was up a bit at the crossing – to put it mildly. Not that that stopped the enthusiastic riders, some of them quite small people too.



Campdraft News

Merrijig Campdraft will be at the end of September and will host the ‘Women In Campdrafting Clinic Day’ at McCormack Park. This is a first for Merrijig Campdraft and the club felt honoured to be nominated to be the host club by women who had been participants in the last Merrijig Campdraft in December 2013. The idea is to promote and encourage more women to have a go at Campdrafting learn the techniques and add more skills to their experience if they are into drafting already.

An added bonus is that the profits of the day are shared with the McGrath Foundation promoting awareness of breast cancer.



If you know of anyone into Campdrafting let them know about this event, and if you don't then feel proud that our Campdrafting Club was nominated and took up the challenge.

September 20th & 21st
MERRUIG Victoria
Proudly hosted by the Merrijig Campdraft Club

Instructors include:
Amanda Reiter, David Reiter, Dennis Heywood, Roger Shepherdson and more...

For all levels of drafters - newcomers to open riders
Two-course Saturday night dinner

Participants must be SCA members (or pay weekend cover)
17 years + (under 18s must be supervised by an adult)

60 PARTICIPANTS ONLY
\$200* all inclusive, at least 1 run each*

*\$15 per person goes to the McGrath Foundation
if weather permitting

Wear pink on Sunday!

Contact
Andrea Pickett 03 57751483 / andrea.pickett@bigpond.com

NB. Limited shower facilities. BYO chair, plate, bowl, cup, cutlery & wine glass.

As well as working on organising this event, Club Secretary, Andrea Pickett, has been working with Mansfield Shire Town Planner Dawn Bray to do the paperwork for a shire planning permit for McCormack Park. This has been drawn up and is in the hands of the council officers at present. So far all signs are positive and once attained will allow up to six events per year at the venue without the necessity of applying for another permit.

McCormack Park Grounds committee, and the Merrijig Family Fun Day Committee thank Andrea for her hard work. It's greatly appreciated.



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





If you LOVE

the Wizard (Andrew) and Oz (Dave)

You're in luck as the Golf Club has booked them
to perform on Oct 18th

Mark it on the calendar, if we can encourage a
good audience it may not have to be so long
between their visits to our district.

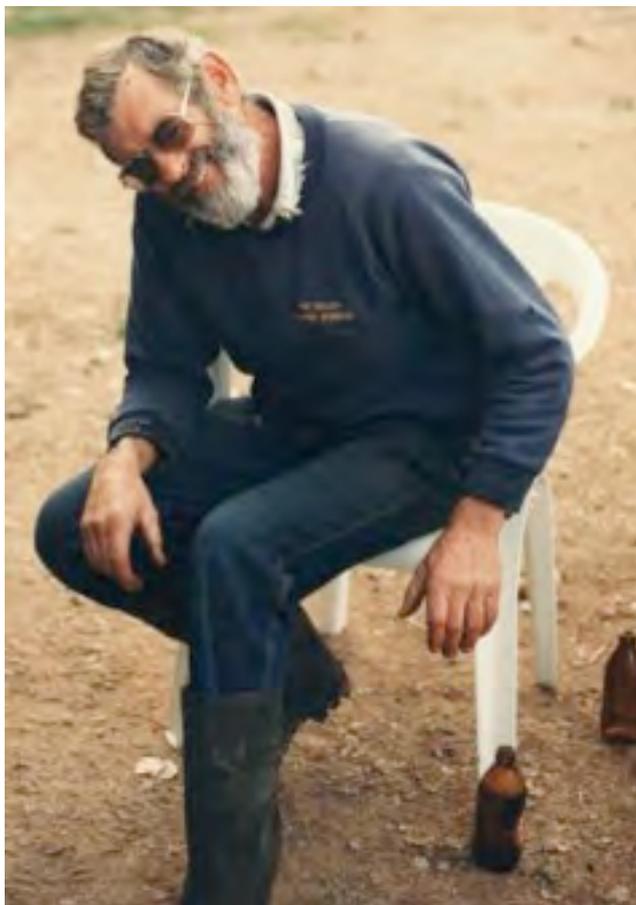
(this is all I know at the moment but wanted you to mark it down so you don't



Remembering Jimmy

Local Character Jimmy Walsh passed away 25 years ago this month

Jimmy's youngest daughter, Ellen, said that he would have turned 81 in August and was 56 when he died on September 7.



Jimmy was a wonderful man who, I (Adele), was really pleased to call a friend of mine. When one of his girls reminded me that it has been $\frac{1}{4}$ of a century since we lost him in a level crossing accident it occurred to me that many of Merrijig's residents today would not have had a chance to have met Jimmy. His home was where the Merrijig Motor Inn is now, the house behind the motel rooms was Jimmy's place.

When asked, his girls and some friends put together this profile of one of our lost local characters.

His second daughter Gael said "The main memories I have regarding dad was his ever popular reputation for his hospitable ways. He would host parties almost every Friday night after the Hunt Club closed. Although a lot of times he was woken from a deep sleep to do so. He was also famous for his toasted cheese and tomato sandwiches that he would happily stand in the kitchen and make for anyone who wanted one or until the bread ran out."

She was amused to recall, "He also had a habit of sleeping through his alarm when being picked up to go to work. As he was quite deaf in one ear he would often use the excuse that the cat was asleep on his good ear and so failed to hear his alarm."

As teenagers Gael could remember, "He had his routine down pat on a Saturday night. Come in from work - pop a chook in the oven, head to the pub for a couple of quiet ones then head home to eat." Good system you may think till she laughingly adds, "Although on a couple of

occasions a couple turned into a few more - and he would then inform us that he no longer had a chook for tea 'cause it had turned into a Kookaburra as it had smoke coming out its ears."

I have my own fond memories of Jimmy and his after-pub parties. EVERYONE went across to Jimmy's place because for several years the pub had to close at 10 pm. Young people would find that hard to believe these days. That was a big step up from 6 pm closing time. Occasionally the pub would stay open for "friends" to share a drink with the publican, but not too many people could stay back or it attracted too much attention from the constabulary. So Jimmy's place was the other alternative. I think Jimmy LOVED it, and the kids who were teenagers then were so patient with all these drinking adults who would roll up on their door step. Ellen tells me "It was a lot of fun and Dad loved having everyone around the house."

Jimmy loaned ponies to many kids including mine so that they could learn to ride, they also took riding lessons at his place.

John Steele a former Merrijigger remembered the pony in the photo with Liz Stringer was bred by Jimmy Walsh. He had a terrific spotty stallion, and a cranky little Shetland mare. ("I can't remember their names", John said) They produced Tony, who adopted his mother's toughness and his father's temperament. How did John come to get Tony the Pony? "Jim kept some of his horses at our place one summer when we were away. We came back to find the horses had got into the house yard and taken a fancy to our cedar window frames. Jimmy was very apologetic and he gave us the foal. Tony became a member of the family, a Pony Club regular, a real character who was loved by lots of others after we moved to Melbourne. The cedar windows survived and still have a few teeth marks." John said.

Ellen couldn't be sure of when her parents bought the original farm in Merrijig, which is the spot on the bend where the little white 'dairy' building is close to the road. Ellen guesses it was around about 1955. She recalled "In 1974 he sold the farm and kept the 12 acres across the road where he built the new house." The 12 acres she refers to is where the Merrijig Motor Inn now stands. "It was a very sad day" Ellen said, "when the stock truck took his milking cows to the sale yards, in fact this was one of two times I recall seeing Dad cry, the other was when his mum died."

Wendy, the mother of the family told me that they used to supply fresh milk from their dairy to Timbertop School, amongst other places, and it was very popular, until rules were changed supposedly to make drinking the fresh milk from the local dairy safer, (where no one had ever had a problem in the life of the Merrijig dairy), but these changes made the little dairy uneconomical which forced the change of farming plans.

"In 1976 not long after we moved into the house" Ellen mentioned, "there was a fire which didn't destroy the entire house but it was a very long time before we were able to move back into the new place, each of us stayed with a different family in Merrijig while the house was rebuilt."

Ellen giggled as she mentioned "I have included a photo of dad on the bull as it was a funny story. He was president of the Merrijig Rodeo Committee probably around 1981 or '82 and they didn't have many entrants in the event so dad said he'd "have a go" and the Courier ran this photo with the headline "Geriatric Jim wins bull ride"



“He had his share of bad luck” Ellen recalled, “In the early 70’s he was working for the CRB on the road crew when he was blown up - the bitumen burner blew its top and I remember visiting him in hospital and he was so black. Jimmy worked on the Mt Buller road crew for what she thinks must have been at least 15 years but may have been longer.

Another time while he was feeding out cattle on his own, he tripped getting back onto the tractor and was run over by the back wheel. At the hospital they told him he was a very lucky man and he replied “I don’t feel too bloody lucky, I just got run over by my tractor! He was saved because the ground was so wet that it pushed him into the ground but it took a little while to get his sight back plus a few other injuries.

Jimmy on the tractor with first grandchild Andrew.

Ellen happily recalling life with her wonderful dad said, “There are so many happy stories I have of dad but are a couple that will share. Firstly the number of times we kids would come home and he was sitting on the chair with his feet in the oven fast asleep. On one of his birthdays for some reason there were only the two of us, so I cooked a special dinner and bought him a bottle of port. As dad was pouring the port he said “You know I always enjoy a port but I can only ever have one or two” that was as he was filling a 7oz glass for the each of us!”



Jimmy with his Kids – Joy who is presently living in Darwin with her partner Richie Robinson (but they are moving home in October), Gael in Merimbula married to Ron Vanderdrift, Ellen living in Brisbane married to Paul Wilsher, Doug living on the Gold Coast and married to Gaylene. Had Jimmy lived long enough he would have thoroughly enjoyed being grandpa to seven grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

Ellen concluded her interview by telling me, “I have such a vivid memory of that terrible time after dad’s accident when you walked into our little house in Killarney Lane and said “Please tell me that wasn’t OUR Jimmy” So much of that time is such a terrible blur but that is something I remember so clearly.”

At the time I was the mail contractor for the area and had been told about his accident in Mansfield which I could not believe of course. I find it hard to believe it’s been 25 years but we who knew him, most fondly remember Jimmy still.

Candle Making Workshop

I am excited that Frosa Katsis will be coming to Mansfield to visit and has agreed to host a candle making class on October 11th, just in time to get creative for Christmas!

Soy candles are a wise and eco-friendly alternative to traditional wax candles. They are bio-degradable, produce no soot or smoke, burn cooler, for longer and release absolutely no toxins! A soothing and natural way of lighting up any event! With this three-hour course you also get a complimentary candle-making kit: 1kg soy wax, jars, wicks, wick stickers, wick sustainers and safety stickers - any leftovers are yours to keep! These candle-making classes make for a fantastic gift for anyone over the age of 10, where they can hone their creative skills to create something beautiful!

So if you're looking for a unique, yet amazing present for a loved one, join me for this fun workshop

Cost is £60 p.p.

*Where 46 Cambridge Drive Mansfield from 1pm Nibbles and Bubbles provided
Frosa is a master of the craft and will share her knowledge and passion with us.*

Visit her facebook page, 'Early Settler Aromatherapy' to see some of her beautiful work.

To book your spot (numbers are strictly limited) call Anne Brogan on 5775 3157

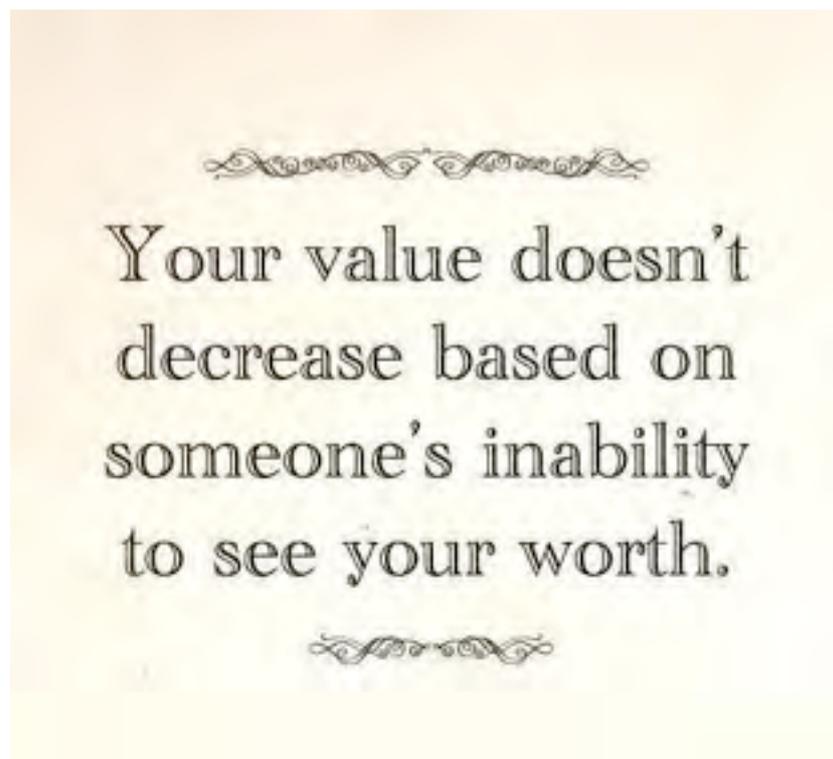


Muscle Mob and Stitching Group at the Merrijig Hall

If you feel like flexing your muscles, building up some core fitness AND enjoy the company of others the Merrijig Muscle Mob meets on Tuesdays at 10 am followed bycoffee and cake perhaps!! Bring a little something to share.

On Thursdays from 11 am the Stitching Group or UFOs (Unfinished Objects) meets for a social get together and opportunity to work on projects that get put on the back burner at home. *They're in recess till middle October so mark the day in your diaries to join in the fun.*





Michele was painting faces of 4 year olds recently so if you Ever needed a face painter

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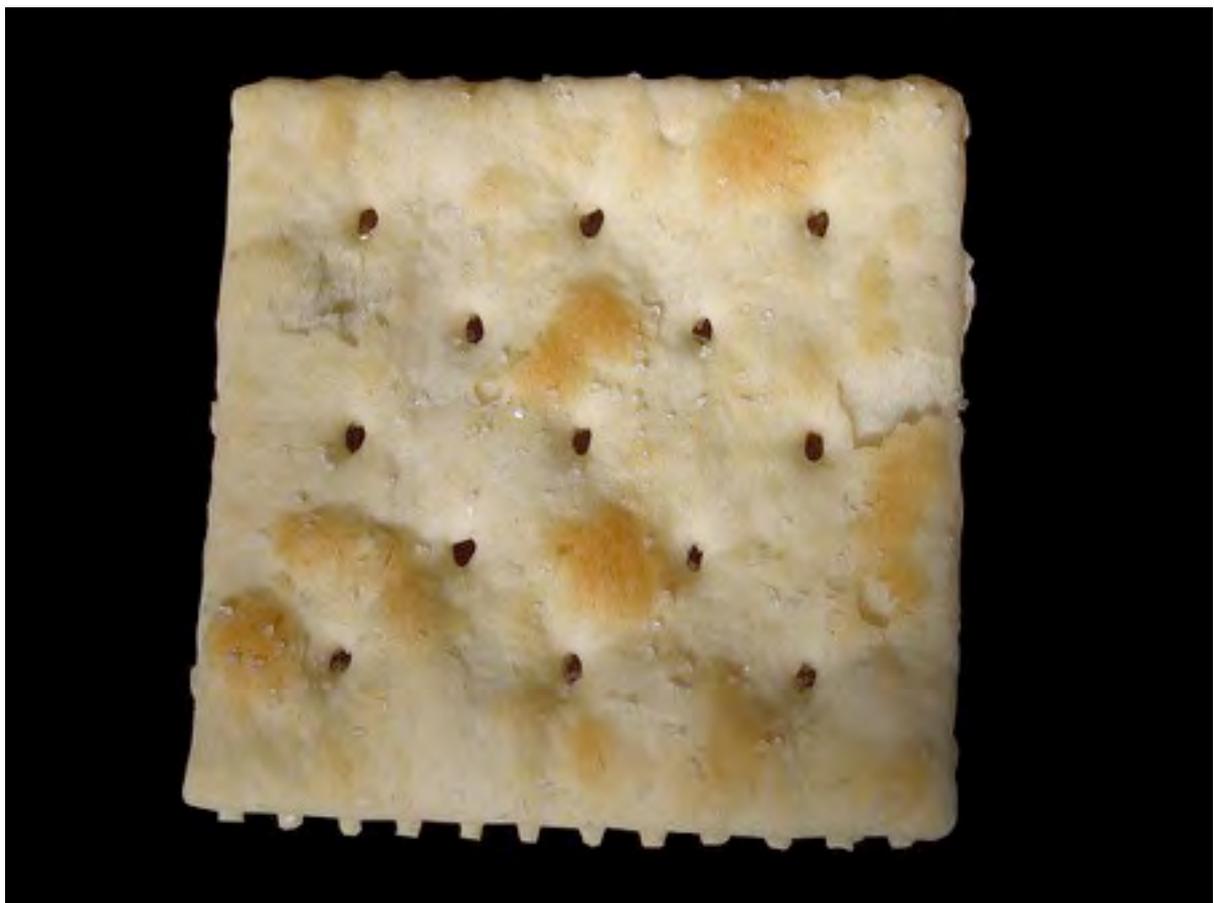


**4 Stirling St Merrig
Juliet Mobile 0419 210468
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NOW FOR A FINAL GOOD LAUGH!

PASS THIS ON - IT'S A CRACKER

See below...



\(•◡•)/

Bye for now Adele

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Don't forget, from now on, send your news to
merrijignewsletter@gmail.com

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. Enquiries can be directed to enquiries@merrijig.com.au or regarding the newsletter content to merrijignewsletter@gmail.com

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