

Merrijig Matters

Merrijig's Monthly Newsletter

November 2014

Issue No. 19

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Quote of the Month

Old friends pass away, new friends appear.
It's just like the days. An old day passes, a new day arrives.
The important thing is to make it meaningful; a meaningful friend –
or a meaningful day.

Dalai Lama

This and 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**, our local JP is:
Laurie Jacob, Buttercup Rd 0439 280 333
Catherine McNish, Sawmill Settlement 0429 482 309

New Newsletter email address:-

From now on when you have news to share via this media, please use the following email address.

merrijignewsletter@gmail.com is where you need to direct your articles, reports, photos or promotions for the upcoming activities of groups you belong to.

Please remember to welcome your new neighbours via the community news and share a few pictures of your most recent or exciting holiday adventure.

And don't forget reports of your events after they have happened.

Feedback

Well done Louise,

Keeping the newsletter going in Adele's absence is not only a caring and friendly thing to do... it is an important link for our community! The fact that I use the word "our" when I don't even live there yet, is testament to the fact that this link makes me feel included.

Please send me the bank account details for the community fun day account so I can send a small contribution to help kick it off.

Kind regards, Eliza Foster

www.made-in-the-shade.com.au www.shade-umbrella.com

The Best Umbrellas Under the Sun are Made in the Shade!

Thanks Louise.

Hope all is well with you. Thanks for doing this community newsletter.

Cheers

Ed Adamson

I Love it Louise..... Georgie Deyell

You are doing a great job Louise – thanks Helen Edwards

November 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						Motorbike Bike Club leads parade 1
Seafood Sunday Mill Inn 2	3	4	5	Rubbish 6	Lake Tali Karng with walking club Targa rally 7	Targa rally Lake Tali Karng with walking club 8
Targa rally 9 Seafood Sunday Mill Inn	10	Community Training. 11	12	Rubbish & Recycling 13	14	15
Bike club Day 16	Walking club AGM 17	18	19	Resilience training Rubbish 20	Resilience training 21	Merrijig Campdraft 22
Merrijig Campdraft 23	24	25	26	Rubbish & Recycling 27	28	Sheepyard with walking club State Election School sausage sizzle 29
Sheepyard with walking club Bush Poetry at the hall 30						

Bereavement

It is with sincere regret that we record the loss of the life of a young Merrijig Primary School mother.



*Kristy with her children Matthew and Sarah
Photo by Kristy's school friend Nea Leydon*

Kristy Hearn lost her life suddenly on Sunday, October 26, when the motorbike, for which she had only days before earned her license to ride, went out of control near Yea forcing her into the path of an oncoming truck.

Much sympathy goes to her young children Matthew and Sarah and their father Andrew, as well as her extended family and network of friends. Having grown up in Mansfield, Kristy was well known in the district particularly amongst the young mothers of the area.

Her funeral will be on Monday, November 3, where her friends and family plan to each wear something in Kristy's favourite colour which was purple.



Kristy was happily photographed with Andrew Farrell of 'Wizard and Oz' at the Range View Restaurant at Mansfield Golf Club on October 18, 2014 where she thoroughly enjoyed herself.

IMPORTANT NOTICE
STATE ELECTION to be held on
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 29
The election will be held at the
Merrijig Primary School this year.

Who's doing what lately?

Lou Brannan has returned to Merrijig in good repair having had installed replacement parts in her hip by “my wonderful surgeon Justin Hunt who operated Friday arvo and I go home on Monday morning”.

Epworth Hospital and he, ‘now the most favourite surgeon in the world’, looked after Lou very well she said, “They have taken the pain away and the limp – yahoo, looking forward to getting back to normality. I am being looked after by nurse Doris Packer and Alan Eustace and being spoilt rotten.” Happily she went on to say “Beautiful flowers were waiting for me on arrival home and dinner cooked. I think I could get used to this.” She concluded “I’m feeling amazing, no pain at all. What a fantastic surgeon Justin Hunt is.”



Me! What have I been up to?

Well, I took off one Monday evening with my brother, Greg and sister-in-law, Joan. We flew off to Blue Hawaii, where we arrived early in the morning of the day on which we left in the evening! We’d been in the air for nine hours. Our apartment overlooked Diamond Head which reminded me of Uluru at sunset.

As you can imagine I could write a book about everything I did and saw but maybe another day. A few highlights though. That first day I swam in the warm water of famous Waikiki beach with my brother.

I loved Dukes Market. It’s a really happy place, a very small area where stall holders pack into Dukes Lane. It’s single file between the stalls. Apparently I am like every second bloke’s mum. They loved me and gave me discounts!

Another time a lady with a jewellery stall showed me a lovely frangipani pendant in rose gold and noticed how hot I was. She gave me some paper towel to wipe away the perspiration, then when I said I liked the pendant she showed me to the mirror where an electric fan was blowing. She won me then but offering me a seat in the path of the fan while she attached a chain made the sale. This little pendant attracted a lot of favourable comments and I LOVE it. When shopping, the money confused me, they have coins worth 25c and 10c!



Yes that's me behind the wheel of a 2014 model Mustang giving you the Hawaiian Hang Cool sign. T'was best I didn't go on the road. Greg drove, as am sure I would have crashed at the first corner as my instinct was to stick to the left and that was where all the oncoming traffic was. One of my very favourite things was when we went snorkeling in Hanauma Bay Beach, a coral lagoon; the remains of a volcanic crater, full of the most beautiful tropical fish. I spent hours in the water with Greg - we had not snorkeled together since we were teenagers and it was like stripping back 45 odd years sharing that experience.

There were more wonderful times on Hawaii where we stayed for a week. Including the very moving visit to the memorial at Pearl Harbour over the sunken warship the Arizona. You cannot help but be moved by a wall of names carved in marble, knowing that the average age of those listed was 18 and a half, many with the same family name and possibly brothers.

I will tell you about the cruise in next month's issue.



Kate Bergmuller has become very keen on barrel racing and is improving on every run.



Kate said “Jasper and Felix..... They’re taking barrel racing up seriously” ha ha. “They’re winning money now... Jasper won first and Felix came second on ‘Dotty’, Sally Reeve’s pony. It’s so much fun”. The boys’ events certainly will be keeping Mummy fit each time they participate. *Photos courtesy BRAction Photography.*

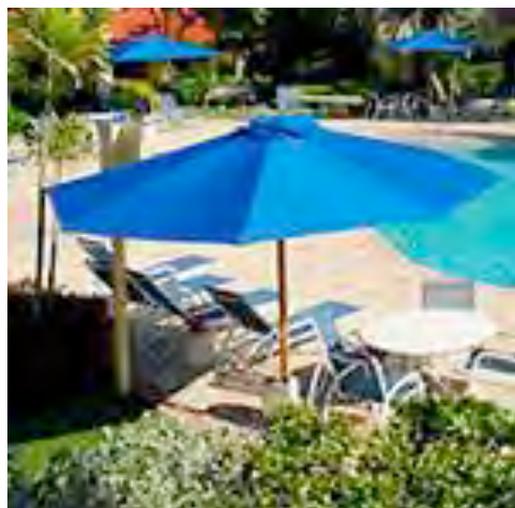
Anne Brogan has some big news – She and her partner Trevor Ray have left the district for a little while. “We are heading over to Porepunkah to take over as managers at the Big 4 Holiday Park for a few years,” she informed me, “This will be a precursor to us travelling around Australia like you do and doing some park babysitting work on our travels,” Anne said. “Mansfield will always be home. Our house and our hearts are still here.”

Anne added “I would love you to let everyone know and tell them to look us up. For families, we have the second biggest jumping pillow in Australia to keep the kids entertained!”

Check out the web site <http://www.porepunkahmill.com.au/> “See you in the park I hope, and bring your guitar,” she concluded.

Eliza Foster, a frequent visitor to Merrijig , has had a most exciting time recently as she managed to take out the Frankston and Mornington "Excellence in Business" Award in the Manufacturing and Production Category as well as being a finalist in the "Environmental Sustainability" Category.

Eliza, 2nd from Right with her team



Eliza also told me very happily, “I also managed to make the finals for the National "My Business" Awards for "Best Business Leader".

Announcements will be made about the winners in Sydney on November 11. “So it has been an exciting few weeks for me!” Eliza said. “This warmer weather starts the season for me... funnily no one wants a shade umbrella when it's not sunny!”

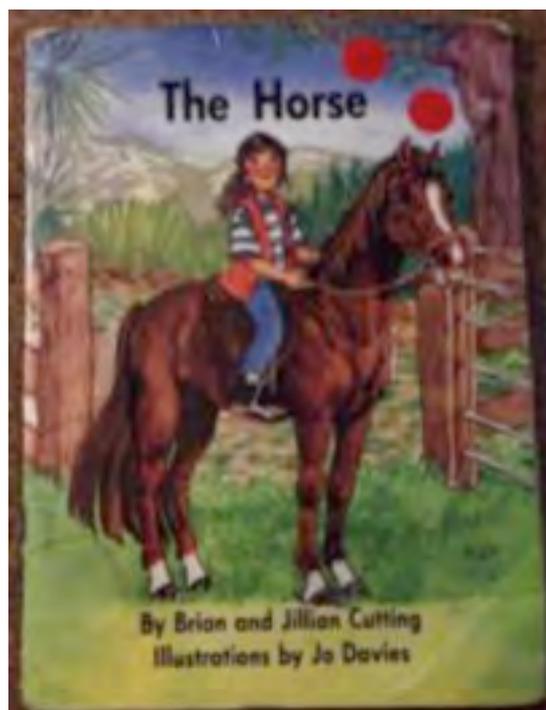
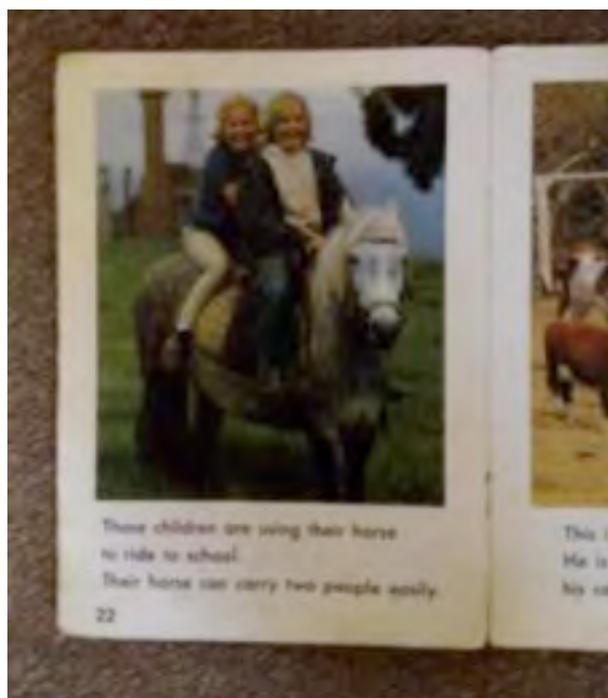
Check out Eliza’s website if you’re in the market for a new umbrella - this summer they are wonderful.

“Keep up the good work with the newsletter,” she concluded, “I really enjoy finding out what's happening in the Merrijig Community when I am busy in the big smoke.”

Lesley Dunlop and Katie (Kirkham) Hill riding B Mary, were found in a school reader. The picture was discovered by Katie's sister, Penny, when her daughter, Chelsea, brought the reader home. Penny said "The book is called 'The Horse'. It is a Sunshine Books reader published in 1993. I just realised this photo was taken in 1983, 31 years ago," she commented.

Penny recalled the photos were taken by a photographer Bill Bachman, who did a shoot for a school magazine called Eyespy. He did a story about 'The Kids from Snowy River' featuring Wayne Lovick, Lesley Dunlop, Kate, myself, and Sam Dunlop."

"Wow is this book still going in schools" said Penny and Katie's mum Judy Kirkham. "I lost my copy. But I do have a copy of Eyespy somewhere." Penny added, "The school have actually given me the reader to keep!"



Judy Kirkham found the magazine in which the "Kids from Snowy River" were photographed.



Katie and Wayne crossing the river.



Whoops, Wayne needs Katie's help.



The kids from Snowy River, Penny Kirkham, Katie Kirkham, Wayne Lovick, Sam Dunlop, Lesley Dunlop

Wendy Jubb Stoney of Howqua

Hills knitted and hand-felted, then lined this attractive little bag creation. She included a pocket and finished it off with a glass bead and loop for the closer and all that loving work was worth it as this delightful little bag won first prize at the Flinders Island Show for hand-felted bags.





Lachie Cullican and his mates recently did their bit to rid the bush of wild pigs. Fortunately our local bush seems to have already been cleared of these destructive pests. Yet it was not so long ago that wild pigs in the nearby High Country were fouling waterholes and streams and destroying native animal's habitats.

Former Merrijig Rodeo Secretary Bri Seaton and her husband Al

own High Country Tree Services which includes their new 4" chipper which is for hire. As many Merrijiggers are preparing their homes and surrounds for another hot summer, by using this little ripper to clean up your green waste you can also create your own mulch. You can contact Bri and Al if you could use this machine or you need help with making trees around your property safe for the summer by calling 5775 1935 or 0438 751 932 or email to

info@highcountrytrees.com.au and if you want a bigger picture of what they do in their business check out the web site at www.highcountrytrees.com.au



Anyone interested in Pilates?

Pilates is a physical fitness system developed in the early 20th century by German-born Joseph Pilates. Barb Hayes Pilate's instructor may be interested in coming to Merrijig for classes. IF this interests you give Barb a call or email her on barjon3@gmail.com



Georgie Deyell has let us know that after 22 years of owning, training and grooming her own English Cocker Spaniels she will now be offering her services by providing grooming to all breeds of dogs. She explained "I am located in Sawmill Settlement and service the Merrijig area, Mt Buller Alpine Resort, Alpine Ridge, Changue Rd as well as Sawmill Settlement. Her business is appropriately named Debonaire K9s.

Her services include and are not limited to:

- Dog bath and Blow Dry (Small to Medium sizes)
- Dog Clipping (Small to Large sizes)
- Pawdicure
- Ear Cleaning

-  Hygiene clipping
-  Flea Treatment
-  Dog Massage

Owners are welcome to stay and have tea or coffee while they wait.

Special Service

Home service at your residence by arrangement, for dogs that don't like car travel.

Qualifications

-  Certificate III in Dog Behaviour and Training
-  Certificate in Massage

Hours: Monday – Friday by appointment

With Christmas looming appointments are essential

0418 137 846 Debonair_k9s@hotmail.com



TARGA - It's on again between November 7 - 9, 2014. Take note of road closures.

LEG 1 – Friday 7 November	LEG 3 – Sunday 9 November
<p>Road closed: Mt Suller Rd Between roads: Chisel Creek & Merindah Store Time: 7.25 – 10.30 Targa Stage: Merindah</p> <p>Road closed: Curra Mansfield Road Between roads: Knights Rd & Galt's Gap Rd Time: 8.45 – 11.40 Targa Stage: Merindah</p> <p>Road closed: Galt's Gap Road Between roads: Curra Mansfield & Rippings Rds Time: 9.40 – 14.40 Targa Stage: Merindah & Galt's Gap</p> <p>Road closed: Humpy Creek Rd Between roads: Creek Junction Rd & Humpy Rd Time: 9.15 – 14.15 Targa Stage: Humpy Creek Rd & Violet Town</p> <p>Road closed: Honey Street Between roads: Railway St & Brook St Time: 10.00 – 12.30 Targa Stage: Curra Lurch</p> <p>Road closed: Mt Suller Rd Between roads: Warranbut Rd & The Avenue Time: 12.30 – 17.30 Targa Stage: Mt Suller</p>	<p>Road closed: Mt Suller Rd Between roads: Chisel Creek & Merindah Store Time: 7.25 – 10.30 Targa Stage: Merindah</p> <p>Road closed: Eldon Junction Rd Between roads: Old Eldon Rd & Eldon Golf Club Time: 8.25 – 17.50 Targa Stage: Big River, Eldon, Junction Mt Tomble</p> <p>Road closed: Riverside Drive Between roads: Dick Eldon Rd & Centre Avenue Time: 9.00 – 10.00 Targa Stage: Eldon Lurch</p> <p>Road closed: Skyline Rd Between roads: Twenty First St & UT Creek Rd Time: 9.20 – 10.00 Targa Stage: Devils River & Skyline</p> <p>Road closed: UT Creek Rd Between roads: Skyline Rd & Monkey Lane Time: 9.20 – 10.00 Targa Stage: Devils River & Skyline</p> <p>Road closed: Mt Suller Rd Between roads: Warranbut Rd & The Avenue Time: 12.30 – 18.00 Targa Stage: Mt Suller</p>
LEG 2 – Saturday 8 November	Mansfield Town Centre
<p>Road closed: Mt Suller Rd Between roads: Chisel Creek & Merindah Store Time: 8.25 – 11.30 Targa Stage: Merindah</p> <p>Road closed: Mansfield Whitfield Rd Between roads: Railway Rd & Bakery Lane Time: 9.20 – 16.00 Targa Stage: Turton, Powers Lockout, Whitfield & King Valley</p> <p>Roads closed: Town Centre Streets – see right * Time: 14.00 – 18.00 Targa Stage: Mansfield Street Stage & Target</p>	<p>Time: 14.00-18.00 Road Closed: Between: Saxe Street Alva Street Supply Street Hunter Street Chantry Street Coligny Street High Street Highest Street Cane Street Apollo Street Olynge Street Ulster Street</p>



Their website http://targa.com.au/tc/page_standard.asp?asset_id=19235 says in 2014, this event will, for the first time, be held over three days and take in 22 stages, including the ever-popular Mansfield town stage through the streets of Mansfield centre in front of thousands of fans.

Targa organisers are seeking assistance

Volunteers are desperately needed to assist with the street stage of Targa High Country. There is a financial contribution to any community group that can provide 10 volunteers for the afternoon of Saturday, November 8.

No previous experience is required. Duties include assisting to set up/pack up barrier tape and ensuring spectators and non-competing vehicles do not enter the course.

For further information contact John Denny 0419 485 951 or jldenny@bigpond.com

Australian Outback Spectacular – a Gold Coast company



Australian Outback Spectacular has over the last few months been filming with some of the Merrijig locals in our High Country. Up until now it has been kept a closely guarded secret but now they have released some behind-the-scenes photos. “Here’s a behind-the-scenes shot taken in the Victorian High Country during filming for our new show ‘High Country Myths & Legends’, the spokesperson, Selena Lawson marketing brand manager said.

“We have created some amazing TV for our ‘making of’ special, and filmed some of the most incredibly beautiful vision for the new show ‘High Country Myths & Legends’, all whilst working with some pretty cool and talented local people. We’re so excited to share the new show with the public in December!”

Australian Outback Spectacular General Manager, Shane Phillips, said the new show will be unlike anything seen before. “High Country Myths & Legends will be the most breathtaking arena show ever produced under the Australian Outback Spectacular roof,” he said.

For more information visit www.outbackspectacular.com.au or 13 33 86.



Locals involved included Bruce & Deb McCormack and family including young Coby-Lee who at the age of seven rides like a true mountain rider. Members of Charlie and Glenda Lovick's family were also major players but there were many other locals who helped with the filming for the new show this Queensland Company is creating. You will no doubt recognise many Merrijiggers if you happen to visit Queensland and take in the show 'High Country Myths & Legends'.

High Country Horses - Season Opening Ride

Fiona Goldman and Chris Dunlop are happy to announce their opening ride this weekend for this trail riding season. "Our first ride is to Craig's Hut/Razorback" Fiona said, "It's a weekend ride where we start from TBJ and ride to Craig's Hut for lunch then on down to Razorback for the night."



Nights on a mountain ride are always great fun around a campfire telling yarns and sharing port. Even more fun if someone has a guitar. "Then on the Sunday we ride all the way back to Merrijig which means about 8.5 hours in the saddle, so it's a big day but well worth it riding through some of the best mountain country in the area", Fiona concluded.



This description is only of day one of this season of trail rides, anything from two hours to four days or more can be arranged and would make a wonderful Christmas gift for those family members who have everything. Great idea for a special treat for international visitors to experience the true beauty of the Australian High Country or even for a city-bound cousin to take a real break from the stress of living in the suburbs.

For more details call High Country Horses & Merrijig Lodge Ph 03 5777 5590
Or check out the web site www.highcountryhorses.com.au and www.merrijiglodge.com.au

Merrijig Family Fun Day



Unfortunately has been postponed from

This Sunday, November 2.

The Fun Day committee appreciates all the work, support and sponsorship from people who LOVE Merrijig and were hoping this would be a new event on the Mansfield Festival Calendar. Unfortunately this turned out not to be the best idea, as with so much else on this particular long weekend, the community groups of the district as well as people who may have participated in the pony and horse events were otherwise engaged. After much deliberation it was decided to go for

Saturday, March 28, 2015

The committee and support team sincerely thank the financial sponsors:-

Peter Arundel - who is a partner in Arundel Constructions.

Kate Bergmuller –the owner of Take 2 Real Estate, just setting up in Brighton

Adele McCormack – who owns M’shed at Merrijig

Mansfield Shire Council -Tourism & Economic Development

Eliza Foster – owner of Made In The Shade Umbrellas

Merrijig Public Hall Committee will cover some Advertising expenses using part of a community grant entrusted to them by Mansfield Shire. Eventually it is hoped that given this better choice of date this event will grow to be successful part of the Merrijig and district calendar thus benefitting the future of Merrijig people and the district. New committee members are joining and a new president will be elected soon. If being involved in getting this event off the ground interests you, contact Secretary Adele McCormack on adelemac15@bigpond.com

Merrijig School News

The school will be running a sausage sizzle on election day, Saturday, November 29, taking up the opportunity to do some fundraising with a captive crowd attracted by the necessity to roll up to vote. They will have their remaining shopping bags for sale as well, so bring a few \$s along with you when you come to cast your vote.

Merrijig Primary School will be involved in the Great Victorian Bike Ride early in December too. They will provide the cooked breakfast on two mornings, Thursday, December 4, Friday, December 5 as well as manning the 'Sweet Treat Wagon' on Wednesday, December 3 and Thursday, December 4.

"We will need volunteers to help cook the breakfast for 5000 hungry bike riders over two days and also volunteers to help man the Sweet Treat Wagon." Secretary Sheena Daykin mentioned. So if anyone can spare some time to help out please contact Rhyll McCormack. The students are in for a busy time as from Monday, November 10 the senior students will go on camp to Ballarat for four days and Bruce and Deb McCormack have offered to take the students horse riding in late November early December. The students can also take up tennis lessons now with Dennis Cahill who will come to the school on Friday mornings.



Mansfield Primary School Grade 6 students camped at Merrijig Primary School on Tuesday, October 28 as part of their 'School to Summit 4 day camp', from Mansfield to the fire tower on Mt Buller. This is the second time the senior students have taken on this challenge, this year under the supervision of outdoor education teacher, Tom McMunn, along with classroom teachers, Lesley Dunlop and Cathy Johnstone.

Students rode their bikes from Mansfield to Merrijig via the back roads, coming to Mt Buller Rd at Pollards Lane. The students camped the night in Merrijig School grounds, in tents purchased with money from an National Australia Bank grant last year. The grant also supplied students with all their plates and cutlery, bed rolls and back packs with the correct chest and waist fittings to distribute the weight correctly to avoid injuries to the hikers. Students only need to bring their own sleeping bags. "The children learn a lot from this experience, and after last year's grade 6 group thoroughly enjoying their adventure, this year's group were really looking forward to it and are very enthusiastic" Lesley said.

One difference with the 2014 trip is that Tom visited Latrobe Bendigo, where outdoor education teachers are trained, in order to encourage some third year students to participate in this adventure. He selected four of the many applicants who on this exercise each take charge of 10 students, this leaves the staff members able to be on hand to help individual students when required.

Tom explained, "The 3rd year students are required to fulfill some practical outdoor education work as part of their training, so when an opportunity like this comes up, they are very keen to volunteer, particularly as working with primary school children is not as common as outdoor education opportunities are with secondary students."

Showers and other Hall facilities were made available for the well-behaved grade 6 pupils after their long ride from Mansfield. "We made very good time this year" Lesley said, "The weather being cool made a big difference and we had time to kill at the top of Buttercup Road where we did some team building games as the Merrijig Primary School children were still in class when we arrived at the top of the Merrijig Valley".

The next day they hiked via Timbertop to Mt Buller where they camped another night before hiking up to the summit. This end-of-year camp was excitedly anticipated for months by the students involved and something they will no doubt remember for the rest of their lives.

Merrijig Public Hall News - Next event

Sunday, November 30, The Bush Poetry / Musical Afternoon

You and every poet or musical person in the district are invited to be part of the Bush Poetry afternoon. This year it will be held on Sunday, November 30, from 2.30 to 7.30 pm.

The children's section of the quest will be held prior to tea/supper. Children's sections are Under 10, Under 14 and Under 18. Prizes are worthwhile and last year's winners were thrilled, not only with winning, but with the prizes they took home.

There is no entry fee to be in the quest, children and adults can write and present their own work or they can read a favourite poem from a book of their choice.

Three well-known local poets, Val Kirley, Miranda Connoughton and Pam Zierk-Mahoney, will judge the winners and offer constructive comments to help the poets improve their presentations in the future.

Entry to the hall is the old fashioned system where the men pay \$5 entry while the ladies bring a plate for tea/supper. Children and students entry is free. Tea/supper will also include freshly made sandwiches and hot sausage rolls along with the ladies plates which will be a surprise. You may bring whatever you want to drink. Tea and coffee is on hand and some soft drinks will be available for sale.



John McCombe also gave a moving musical rendition of 'Clancy of the Overflow'

Following tea/supper the adults take to the stage where they present their own entertaining works. Last year's winner, Peter Smiles, presented a story about a Wombat which had the audience in stitches of laughter. John McCombe recited a favourite of the audience, "The bush christening" by Banjo Paterson about the naming of Maginnis Magee which was followed by raucous applause and much laughter. Ed Adamson presented some of his own work, one he had written about sawing timber at Christensen's Mill at Mirimbah.

There will be breaks between the presentations of poetry while the judges make their choices where local musically-talented people will entertain the audience. This will be a casual relaxing afternoon where you and your family will be able to share with others the love of and fun with poetry and music.

Frank Johnson Merrijig Activities Co-ordinator

Merrijig Quilt unveiled



One of the key participants in the creation of the quilt pictured here is Ann Herbert with president of the hall committee, Noel Willaton.

Defibrillator training session inspiring

A 90 minute training session at the Merrijig Hall on Saturday of last weekend was well attended and inspiring with trainer, Mick Jackson, of First Aid for Life (part of Ambulance Victoria) explaining the increased chance of survival when an automated external defibrillator (AED) is used in an emergency situation.

Merrijig Motor Inn is the location of the AED installed in Merrijig. The procedure in case of an emergency where a person is possibly having a heart attack is to dial Triple Zero. The call takers at Triple Zero have the location of the Merrijig AED registered and will advise the caller of its location if that is the closest unit. If it is, then the Merrijig Motor Inn should be contacted by phone. The motor inn phone number is 5777 5702.

The arrangement with the owners at the motor inn is that if it is not possible for someone to collect the AED (because they are alone with the patient) they will deliver it.



Some of the participants at the defibrillation training session provided by Ambulance Victoria were pictured at the conclusion of the session. Each participant was issued with a pillow case with the necessary instructions to perform CPR (Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation). Two DVDs shown also assisted in the understanding of the importance of having the ability to do CPR, signs to look for in recognising symptoms of a heart attack and how to use the AED.

A good suggestion made at the meeting was to write the Merrijig Motor Inn phone number (**5777 5702**) on your fire phone tree sheet so that **after dialling 000 in the case of emergency** you have the number of the motor inn handy.

It could also be included in your mobile phone's phone book.

Community Hall a hub in Merrijig - report on the Hall Committee AGM by Louise Jacob

Continued improvements at Merrijig Public Hall were the focus of the recent annual general meeting where the Merrijig Quilt was officially unveiled. In the president's report, Mr Noel Willaton, congratulated those ladies who worked on the beautiful quilt which depicts their story of Merrijig and which provides such a wonderful community asset.

He also featured the tireless work of committee member Georgie Deyell, who has successfully obtained many grants for the continued improvement of the hall and for other projects. Of particular note was partnering with Judy Kirkham of the Mansfield Ambulance Auxiliary for the provision of a defibrillator (automated external defibrillator) located at Merrijig Motor Inn in the heart of Merrijig township. This defibrillator is registered with Triple Zero so callers can be directed to its location in case of emergency.

A free training session held last week covered the use of the defibrillator and CPR (cardiac pulmonary resuscitation) techniques and was very well attended. In outlining the current projects, Mr Willaton listed a \$6000 grant from the Public Records Office for a local history project which involves digitising the hall records which date back to the 1930s; The High Country History Hub partnering again with the Mansfield Historical Society and the Mountain Cattlemen's Association, which is a model for archiving and electronically distributing the digitised records.

Other projects include \$5000 from Mansfield Shire Council for landscaping; FRRR Funding of \$3000 for Small Grants and Small Communities providing a start to purchasing multimedia equipment; Mansfield Shire Larger Projects \$4456 and seed funding from the Mansfield & District Community Bank of \$3000 combined to allow for the installation of solar panels on the former CFA shed at the rear of the hall. Also received from Mansfield Shire Clubs & Groups Fund an amount of \$1850 funded the installation of a notice board in time for the very popular Poets' Day. Two flagpoles have also been erected at the front of the hall in time for ANZAC Day last April. The most recent funding has come from AusNet. A cheque for \$1650 was received last week for the installation of a flagpole at the Merrijig War Memorial at the top of Buttercup Rd where it crosses the Mt Buller Tourist Rd. This is part of an upgrading of the memorial spearheaded by committee member, Peter Howarth and others. Mr Willaton also acknowledged the contribution of \$3000 from the Merrijig Rodeo & Sports Association presented to the hall committee for running the barbecue at the Labour Day event in March. He particularly thanked the volunteers and committee for their efforts on the day.

Regarding the acoustic panels installed in the hall last year Mr Willaton said the committee is extremely happy with the results and hope to continue to improve this aspect with the installation of ceiling panels when funding allows. A concrete pathway between the former CFA shed and the hall has recently been completed and backfilled which ensures a mud-free environment for transferring equipment between the two buildings.

He complimented local resident, Adele McCormack, for her wonderful efforts in compiling the Merrijig Newsletter. This idea came out of the Shire's Capable Cohesive Communities sessions. Adele with committee member, Frank Johnson, family and friends, did a 'spectacular job' organising the Rock 'N Roll night at the hall and we really appreciate their efforts promoting the use of our facility.

Mr Willaton concluded in expressing his thanks to all the committee members and the community volunteers who continue to devote their time to working bees to help preserve the

hall and surrounds. "Fund raising and increased hall patronage continue to be our major focus," he said.

When taking the chair for the election of office bearers, former hall president, Chris Dunlop, took the opportunity to compliment the management committee on the continued improvements being made to the hall and the focus it has in the community.

At the election of office bearers and committee all members were returned unopposed. The committee comprises: President, Noel Willaton, Vice President, Peter Howarth - a new appointment, Secretary, Louise Jacob, Treasurer, Sen Weir. Committee members: Marg Attley, Anne Bloomfield, Jim Blundell, Georgie Deyell, Laurie Jacob, Frank Johnson, Kerrie Purcell.

AusNet grant for War Memorial Project

Mansfield's electricity distributor, AusNet Services, last week presented 10 local non-profit organisations with grants totalling \$20,000 as part of its 'Energising your Community' Community Development Fund (CDF).

Merrijig Public Hall was allocated \$1650 which will be used for a flagpole at the Merrijig War Memorial at Corn Hill where Buttercup Rd crosses the Mt Buller Tourist Rd. The War memorial is one of the projects the hall committee is working on to be completed in time for ANZAC Day next year.



At the Ausnet cheque presentation in Mansfield mayor, Cr Ray Robinson and AusNet Services Regional Community and Customer Manager, Craig Velt, hold the cheque for local organisations. At right Georgie Deyell represented Merrijig Public Hall Committee.

Merrijig Rodeo - has secured its future at McCormack Park with a promise to build a healthy Association with increased membership. A meeting was called for October 29 in the Merrijig Hall to work through issues before the 2015 Merrijig Rodeo.

Several areas of concern were addressed at a well-run meeting chaired by Peter Howarth. Some of the matters raised were; consultation between user groups on alterations and improvements to McCormack Park; access to the private land needed to operate the rodeo one week either side of the weekend of the event and once again the question of public liability insurance was raised.

Arena surface work requires consultation so the surface is appropriate for all users and communication and co-operation between users needs to improve. Then the main issue of rebuilding the Merrijig Rodeo & Sports Association was approached with a proposed amendment to the current membership of the association. That being, that at their meeting on November 13, a proposal will be put to increase the association membership to 20, made up of eight committee members; four on the executive and four ordinary members, the remaining 12 will be simply association members.

This proposal, if passed, will allow Merrijig Rodeo & Sports Association access to sponsorship of the private land they need in order to hold the event. It was pointed out that the new members could then be eligible to join the association as soon as five minutes after the proposal was passed, which appeased fears of delaying the intake of interested locals joining. Once this was understood, the proposal was met with the approval of the major sponsor, the landowner, who after the chairman closed the meeting retired after saying that the health of the association was important to her due to the great respect she had for many past members, including her late husband and some very good friends.

How about dining out occasionally?

Usually on a Thursday evening on alternate weeks the 'Merrijig Dining out Mob' get together. Next time is on Thursday, November 6, 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 reserve you a seat, or you can simply come along and join in. (sometimes though bookings are advisable).

Come and join the dining out mob.



MANSFIELD SHIRE

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

One giant step closer to a Township Zone in Merrijig.

You have no doubt been following the progress of Mansfield Planning Scheme Amendment C28: Merrijig Township and Merrijig Primary School Rezoning. Well the wait is almost over as the amendment at the Shire Council meeting on October 21, was passed to now move onto its final stage, which is to seek approval from the Minister of Planning.

This followed two consultation meetings with the community and the satisfactory resolution of some objections. Objections came from Merrijig Public Hall, VicRoads and a landowner. Goulburn-Murray Water and Department of Environment and Primary Industries also responded with a recommendation of a 30m development setback from the Delatite River. VicRoads was concerned with any additional access to Mt Buller Rd.

Following the community meeting on June 28, a draft concept development plan was produced by Civil Engineer H J (Roady) Macey and this was presented to the community on was advertised in the Mansfield Courier. This plan assured VicRoads and the Hall committee that their issues had been addressed. GV Water and DEPI were also pleased with the 30m development setback from the Delatite River. The landowners who initially objected withdrew their objection following a meeting with Council's Development Services Manager and Strategic Planning Officer. As a bonus arising from the amendment process and the proposed concept plan, the community, Council and the various authorities now have a clearer understanding of what development can take place.

As well as this, the whole community and the Council are better informed of each other's concerns including the worries the locals had in the way that Merrijig is to be developed. Merrijig Township is an area identified as the alternative township to Mansfield, because it has reticulated water and a sewerage system. The shire's ratepayer base will modestly increase over a period of time, following the re-zoning as the Merrijig Township develops.

Many members of the Merrijig community are worried that this amendment could mean the potential loss of Merrijig's rural landscape. This amendment will balance those concerns with the developers' desires to subdivide their land, by confining growth to a specific area through outlining the township boundary.

In the minutes of the Council meeting where this was discussed, Cr Attley acknowledged the good community involvement and consultation by Council during this process. It was subsequently Moved by Cr Attley and Seconded by Cr Sladdin that Council:

1. Adopt Amendment C28 to the Mansfield Planning Scheme, in accordance with Section 29 of the Planning and Environment Act 1987.
2. Submit Mansfield Planning Scheme Amendment C28 to the Minister for Planning in accordance with Section 31 of the Planning and Environment Act 1987, and request the Minister for Planning approve the amendment and its incorporation into the Mansfield Planning Scheme under Section 35 of the Planning and Environment Act 1987.

The motion was carried. Well done Merrijig Community and Mansfield Shire Planning department. It's very pleasing to be part of a community willing to compromise and work with each other rather than have only one aim in mind which does not allow for conciliation. Both community meetings with the landowners requesting the amendment, the shire officers and the Merrijig community were well attended and everyone was encouraged to voice their concerns.

The **Mansfield Community Resilience Leadership Program** aims to build behind-the-scenes community leaders who will be able to support a community in crisis and assist them to recover quickly.

A crisis in a community can range from the closure of a local business or the sudden death of a community member to more wide spread disasters such a bushfire, floods and epidemic spread of infectious diseases.

In many cases it is impossible to predict when a crisis will hit and who in the community will be impacted. HOWEVER - A key and vital characteristic of resilient communities is strong community leadership and preparedness. Well informed, connected and empowered local community leaders have the means to make significant positive contributions to their communities especially in the field of developing community resilience.

This program will bring together a broad cross-section of stakeholders in order to explore and expand their role in building community resilience. The workshops will total about 30 hours of commitment. The initial commitment will be two consecutive days and a schedule for the remaining hours will be worked out in consultation with the participants.

An expression of interest form was distributed a few weeks ago with a number of options for the initial two day workshop. The most popular dates and now confirmed date for the initial two day workshop is Thursday, November 20 and Friday, November 21, 9.30 am - 3.30 pm each day. We are REALLY keen to get more participants from some of the outlying townships so please consider this fantastic opportunity!

Kirsten Lingard
Community Development Officer - Rural Access
Phone: (03) 5775 8534



Volunteers make the world go round!

Volunteering has a meaningful, positive impact on a community and offers great benefits for volunteers too – but we always seem to be crying out for more volunteers.

At this workshop we will look at how best to recruit, manage and retain all important volunteers so it is a win-win situation for all.

Date: Tuesday 11 November

Time: 6pm – 7.30pm

Venue: Buckland Room, Mansfield Community Centre

Presenter: Michele Padbury – Mansfield Shire Council's highly experienced Volunteer Co-ordinator

The workshop is **free of charge** and includes resources and light supper.

To register: contact the community development team on 5775 8555 or community.development@mansfield.vic.gov.au



Merrijig Campdraft will hold its main event on November 22 and 23. Free entry for spectators so come along and watch the activity.

At the end of September Merrijig Campdraft hosted the “Women In Campdrafting Clinic Day” at McCormack Park. Extracts from a report by Andrea Pickett.

“This was the sixth Women In Campdrafting weekend (WIC) and was held in the charming and scenic McCormack Park in Merrijig on September 20-21. Women In Campdrafting is more than a Campdraft school. It aims to develop support networks for women in the sport and raise awareness of women's health. The proceeds of each WIC weekend go to the McGrath Foundation.



Photo courtesy Trish Dunnachie

Merrijig Campdraft Club really capitalised on the opportunity to raise money for the McGrath Foundation and organised an auction and a raffle using the skills of local stock agent Stewart Bryant who had mesmerized the group with his whip cracking display before taking to the hammer for the auction.

With all donations and profits tallied, Merrijig WIC raised an impressive \$7,285 for the McGrath Foundation bringing the total WIC contribution over the years to more than \$28,000.

Let's start up LETS again

Leigh-Ann Eldridge from Sawmill Settlement would like to fire up a community organised group which operated during the early 1990's the result of one of those recession times when \$s were hard to find but the work still needed to be paid for.

Local Energy Transfer Systems began in Malaney in the hinterland of Queensland and took off in a wave during that period of time. One group successfully ran in Mansfield under the umbrella of MACE which in those days encouraged many local community-driven projects.

The local currency was named Manses (Mansfield Money) and the idea was that by using Manses a value could be applied to swapped service in the barter system. And that swapped service did not have to therefore be with the same people who provided the service. To explain a little more clearly, I will use an example.

Person **A** loves horses but has no ground on which to keep the horses; another person, **B** has a big paddock but has no livestock. So rather than pay for the horses to be agisted in the paddock person **A** provides home maintenance services for person **B**. This is one on one bartering.

Where the LETS system is different, **A** pays **B** in Manses because **B** likes doing his own home maintenance. But **B** needs someone to type up his memoirs on the computer. So the Manses can be used by **B** to pay person **C** to work on converting handwritten documents to digital format. In the meantime Person **A** does the gardening and cleans out the spouting for **D** who pays him in Manses. So the circle continues with **D** earning her Manses by swapping her skills with another member. Leigh-Ann tracked me, (Adele) down, to see if it was still

running as she has skills she could swap. I had been the secretary of LETS all those years ago which is how she came up with my name - someone must have remembered.

While the system operated strongly it actually caused problems for Government with people not paying taxes on income or indirect taxes on purchases. So laws were passed where tradesmen, for instance, were to give a monetary value to their work and were expected to pay income tax on that amount although they only received favours in return not actual cash. Services classed as hobbies were acceptable but following these laws being brought in and as the economy improved following that recession, the system died a natural death.

Anyone with a desire to get this up and running in a Merrijig kind of way let me know or contact Leigh-Ann on lesawmill@gmail.com

Mansfield Walking Club

November 7 - 8 **LAKE TALİ KARNG** Overnight hike GRADE DIFFICULT
Contact the Leader John Condon - if you wish to join this walk 5775 2439

Car journey to Licola Friday night to allow early start on Saturday.

A further drive of about 25 kms to a Wellington River crossing where a car is left (for the end of the walk).

Another 35 kms to McFarlane Saddle. Walk across a mostly level, open snow-grassed Wellington Plain to a track junction (about 9 kms).

Drop gently, then quite steeply for a further 3.5 kms through forest to the campsite at idyllic Lake Tali Karng.

Day two - initial sharp drop through forest to join the Wellington River (about 4 kms). Follow this downstream (numerous river crossings) for about 15 kms to the previously parked vehicle.

Overnight walk checklist.

\$\$ contribution for fuel.

Sturdy walking shoes.

ALPINE ALERT - be prepared for cold /wet conditions.

November 17 - the Club's **AGM** will be held at the Hotel Delatite from 7 pm. All welcome.
Walk presentation.

November 29 - 30 **Club Weekend** at Sheeppark Flat - various walk options from easy to hard.

Easy - walk along Howqua River, go through the tunnel at Tunnel Bend, visit Gardiners, Pickerings and Noonan's Huts.

Medium - Castle Rock, short drive to start of walk above Fry's campsite. Uphill to a saddle on the Lickhole Creek Track, then down to Castle Rock.

Return options can then be decided. (Weather-dependant)

Hard - Eagles Peaks. One hour drive up the Howqua River Valley to the beginning of the ascent .8 Mile Gap car park.

Walk begins in sub-alpine vegetation; marked trail; with a hard section of scrambling before the summit. Lunch at top. Walk back to cars at 8 Mile Gap. Panoramic views include the Bluff/ Mt McDonald. Interesting geology and flora.

For All walks

Day walk checklist

Lunch/water

\$\$ contribution for fuel

Sturdy walking shoes.

Motorbike Club News - the place to learn safe riding practices

Mansfield Grand Parade is on Saturday, November 1, 2014 - Mansfield Junior Motorcycle Club has entered the Mansfield High Country Festival Parade again this year and will be leading the parade!



BUSH RIDE/CAMP OUT WEEKEND at 'The Dungeon' on October 18 and 19 was a great success.

The club thanks Lovicks' High Country Adventures and Watsons' Mountain Country Trail Rides for the use of their properties over the weekend. A total of 14 families camped overnight to be joined early Sunday morning by more members for the club day events.

Three bush tracks were set to cater for beginner, intermediate and advanced riding skills. A 'Minikana' circuit to challenge the rider's skills and a 'Go to Wow' hill climb were also part of the skills program on the weekend. The club's mission statement is to help children learn the necessary skills in order to ride a dirt bike safely while having fun in a safe environment and with this in mind all riders challenged their skill levels and had a great time out in the bush.

It's illegal for persons under the age of 18 to ride in the bush except on private property, so the generosity of the Lovick and Watson families to make their properties available for the kids to ride in the bush is very much appreciated.

Encouragement Awards went to:

- *Declan Callahan – Great skills on his first day up on Big wheel
- *Daniel Young – Clutch Control Skills on 2nd day on big bike
- *Jack Johnson – Minikana Skills (bike control during tight turns)
- *Max Payne – Go to Wow Hill Climb – 'This kid is fast and skilful!'
- *Archie Kilgour – Bush Track Skills – New member shows great skills
- *Cayd Tumai Totorewa - Bush Track Skills – Excellent skills on the bush tracks.



The club will be participating on the Mansfield Grand Parade on Saturday, November 1, and the next club day will be combined with a Grass Track Event (Junior and Adult race events plus a Junior skills noncompetitive track) at Neely's property, 290 Soldiers Road Barwite on Sunday, November 16. Details and updates are always put either on the club's Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/groups/304528622973725/?fref=ts>) or the club's web site <http://www.mansfieldmc.com/>

Next club day is November 16.

LOOK WHAT'S GOING ON AT OUR LOCAL

HUNT CLUB HOTEL
OPENING HOURS

Monday to Thursday from 2.00 pm
Friday, Saturday Sunday from 11.00 a.m.

Bistro opens from 6.00 pm for dinner 7 nights

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

Tuesdays: Trivia every 2nd Tuesday

Wednesdays: Pizza/Panino/Steak Night
Panino & a Pot of Boogs \$20.00

(Ask for a loyalty card and receive every 8th Panino Free, conditions apply)

Thursdays: Happy Hour from 5.30pm - 7.30pm
Bar Snacks & Fritze Drive at 7.30pm
2 Jugs of Boogs and 12 Chicken Wings \$35.00

Lunches: Friday, Saturday Sunday
12.00 noon - 2.00 pm.

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.

Mansfield Motorcycle Club

presents

Spring Grass Track

16th November
Sunday 2014

Noel's Property

290 Soldiers Rd Barwite
Breakfast & Lunch catered for

Pre-
registration
forms on website
to enter [www.
mansfieldmc.
com](http://www.mansfieldmc.com)

SIGN IN Between
7.30 A.M. and 8.30AM

COSTS

Entry for day
(includes \$11 MV Levy)
Member - \$20
Non - Member \$30
(incl day membership)
Extra Class - \$10
One Day Licence
Competitive Class - \$55
Recreational One Day Licence - \$30
(Licences can be purchased
on the day)

Classes set at discretion
of the steward

Junior non competitive separate track
will also be operating on the day
Enquiries: www.mansfieldmc.com
or call 0438 578 300

**PROOF OF AMBULANCE
COVER REQUIRED**

Children under 18 years will need a
parent/guardian to sign

NO TEAR OFFS ALLOWED

Presentation at the end of Racing

Can enter on day

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 Weir 0407 565 962 or 5777 5656

Some of the regular activities held at the hall include:

THE STITCHING GROUP



"Which" Craft?

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

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



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

Fit & Fun

Don't do any of these workouts pictured.

Its good fun & light muscle strengthening exercises

Coming Event:

Merrijig Community Social Event

It's on again

Bush Poetry

@ Merrijig Hall

This will follow a similar format to the inaugural event. The school students will perform before tea while the adults hold the floor post feeding frenzy interspersed with local musical entertainment.

Come along for a happy afternoon out with fellow Merrijiggers on **Sunday Nov 30 th from 2:30 pm to 7:30 pm.**

Popular local bush poets

Val Kirley and Miranda Connaughton

have agreed to entertain & judge the entrants, along with Pam Zierk-Mahoney from the Courier.

Prizes and unique Trophies will be awarded to the winners

**Fellas \$5 entry while ladies
bring a plate for supper**

**BYO DRINKS
DRIVE RESPONSIBLY**

*For more information, contact Frank Johnson on 0400 315 344
or Adele McCormack on 0409 600 655*



THE MILL INN
1 Alpine Ridge Drive Merrig VIC

SEAFOOD SUNDAY LUNCH



SUNDAYS 12 - 3PM
4 DATES ONLY
OCTOBER 19TH & 26TH
NOVEMBER 2ND & 9TH



3 COURSE LUNCH
FRESH SEAFOOD
INCLUDES A GLASS OF
DON KINLOCH SPARKLING ON ARRIVAL

MENU



SEAFOOD ANTIPASTO AND TAPPAS



YOUR CHOICE OF MAINCOURSE FROM MENU

HOMEMADE DESSERT

SEE THE FULL MENU ONLINE
www.millinn-merrig.com

SET PRICE \$55.00 per person
Bookings 03 5777 5868
email themillinn@bigpond.com




MAKE YOUR LUNCH DATE TODAY.....

EVER NEEDED A FACE PAINTER

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

Michele has been busy face painting for a birthday party then Halloween and is booked for a cup day event and a Christmas market in Tolmie To hire Michele for a birthday party or club fundraiser check out the notice below.

Chele's Face~Painting.

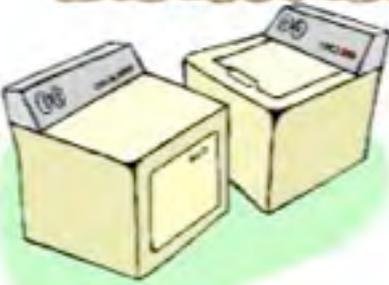
\$50- p/h.



Fundraisers

Having a Family Fun Day, Fete, Trash & Treasure?

Pay for 2 hours get 4 hours and charge a minimum of \$6 per full face and \$3- per cheek to keep for yourself



AJ's
Laundry Services

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

NOW FOR A FINAL GOOD LAUGH!

The elderly lady was speaking to her son after his father had passed away.

“You know it would have been terrible for him.”

“What mum, what would have been terrible?”

“The war,” she continued “it would have been terrifying; I don’t know how he ever coped”.

“I don’t know what you’re talking about mum,” he asked very concerned about some skeleton in the closet he had never heard about “what was so terrible?”

“All those Karaoke pilots flying around trying to kill him”!



Bye for now Adele
Adele McCormack
45 McCormacks Rd
Merrijig 3723
P: 03 5777 5637 M: 0409 600 655

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

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

Every care has been taken in gathering and presenting the information on this site.

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

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