

Merrijig Matters

Merrijig's Monthly Newsletter

January 2015

Issue No. 21

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New Newsletter email address:-

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

merrijignewsletter@gmail.com is where you need to direct your articles, reports or promos 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.

Quote of the month



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**

Catherine McNish, Sawmill Settlement 0429 482 309

Merrijig Defibrillator is located at Merrijig Motor Inn

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 the closest unit.

If it is the Merrijig Motor Inn you should then ring the motel.

The Motor Inn phone number is **5777 5702**.

January 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
				Rubbish 1	2	3	
4	Campdrafts thank you BBQ at McC Park	5	6	7	Rubbish & Recycling 8	9	10
11	Bushwalking club from Fry's hut to Tobacco Flat.	12	13	14	Rubbish 15	16	17
18	Horse riding lessons workshop at McC Park	19	20	21	Rubbish & Recycling 22	23	24
25		26	27	28	Rubbish 29	30	31
				Kids go back to school			

Feedback

Dear Adele, Thank you for all your work this year in getting the newsletter out, I really look forward to reading it each month. Beautiful sentiments in this email, hope you and your family have a wonderful Christmas in Melbourne. Cheers Coby

Thanks for all your lovely newsletters, you are a star!

Regards,
Eliza

Good afternoon Adele,

You have done an outstanding job with the Merrijig Newsletter and it is great to receive it and keep up with what is going on. Thank you so much.

Kindest regards always
Jan and the boys. ☺

Bereavement

With sincere regret I announce the passing of Betty Gleich, aged 88

Formally of Sawmill Settlement, Betty lived with her husband Heinz for many years, developing a wide circle of respectful friends as the Sawmill community grew from a holiday house destination to a satellite community of Merrijig.



Widowed for 16 years, Betty bravely fought her failing health with her constant cheerful attitude, counting her blessings for not being as badly off as others. Betty was born in Germany and lived through the war and its lead up as a young teenager who noticed her friends and neighbouring families gradually moving away quietly as tensions increased while the war developed. After the war she left for England where she and her new husband Heinz lived for a while before choosing to settle in Australia, the best decision they ever made she would often say.

In a recent visit Betty happily told of how she had been speaking to her sister in Germany over Skype and how wonderful it is to live in a world of such amazing technology.

Betty was on the Newsletter mailing list and would often turn on the computer at night when she couldn't sleep to re-read it, as it made her feel she was still part of the Merrijig community where her heart was still.

Sympathies go to her children Jenny Kitchener and her husband Bob and their daughters and families. To her son Greg and his wife Nikki and their daughters and families, Betty will most definitely be missed in their lives as she will in the lives of her numerous friends of all ages.

Who's doing what lately?

The Merrijig contingent who worked on the 'High Country Myths & Legends' for Australian Outback Spectacular on the Gold Coast were treated like true celebrities being met at the airport by a stretch limousine and whisked away to their top class accommodation at Sea World.



Merrijig's Jed Cullican, and Bruce McCormack with Chris Egan and the stretch Limo.



Coby with grandparents Bruce and Deb McCormack in the Limo.

Bruce said, "There is a huge screen showing the material they shot while they were here and the rest of the show goes on in the arena while the screen changes as it needs to, so it fits in with the show." He self-consciously mentioned "It was nice to be treated almost like Royalty, and young Coby was listed in the credits as Coby McCormack 'Actor'."



Charlie and Glenda in the stretch limo.

As they were staying in the SeaWorld Resort it was natural to take in a few of the rides and other things on offer.



Population Explosion of permanents in Merrijig

The residents of McCormacks' Rd had their first ever street party on December 21 at the home of the most recent permanent residents to move in, Ainsley and Ross May, who bought the property some time ago but took possession of it only recently following the end of pre-booked holiday rentals. With their arrival the number of permanent residents is now at eight households. Before Gaby and Chris Malin put through the road to build their home at the end of McCormacks' Rd there were only three households on the short road, being two McCormacks and the Dunlops. Since then three new houses have been built on the Delatite River side of McCormacks' Rd by two more McCormacks and Tony and Sandra Lovick.

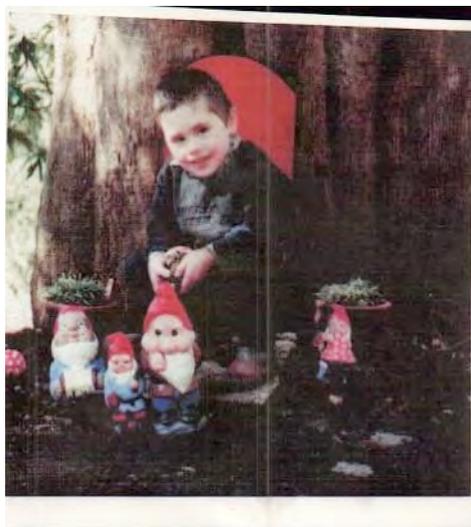
Then two new homes on the north side of the road were built and Greg and Kaye Dawson moved in, now with Ross and Ainsley, they make it a street of nine homes. Most recently Jan and Mick Nelson have moved from Albury into Jan's old family home where her parents, Judy and Peter McCormack, (*one of the original McCormack homes*) raised their family.

Gaby and Chris plan to make Merrijig their permanent home in the near future too which will mean every household will be occupied by permanent residents.

I find it hard to believe myself - but would you believe I was enjoying everyone's company so much that I forgot all about taking a photo of the gathering. Never mind maybe next year!

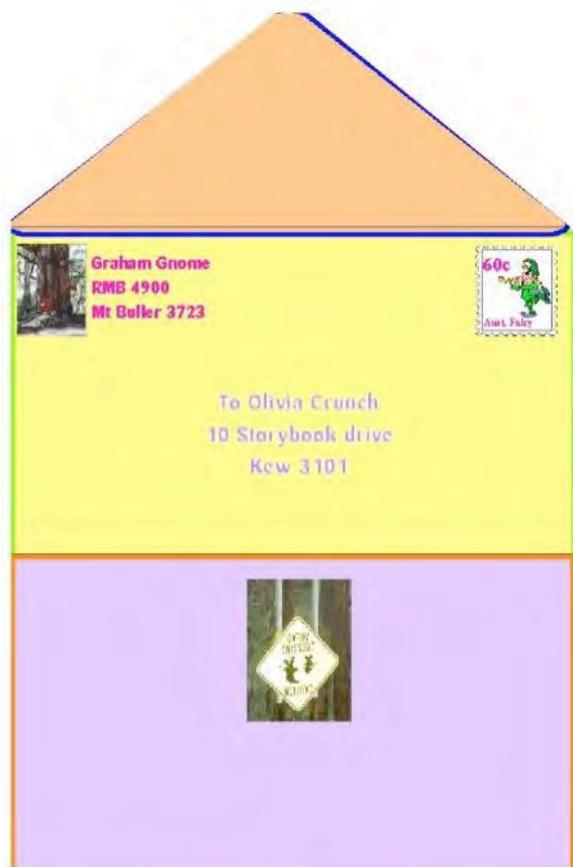
Look who's grown up

Those of you who have known my grandson since he was tiny will be pleased to hear this young man has now graduated secondary school and is looking to get involved in Computer IT and game design in the future.



Daniel aged 3 visiting the Gnome House on Mt Buller

Daniel would often come with me on the mail run when he was a pre-schooler and always checked the Gnome house mailbox. People would often leave notes and presents for the Gnome, he would give me the letters because I was the postie but he was positive, without reservation, that the Gnome had left the gifts for him. During that time for a few years I would reply to those messages which had addresses with a Gnome note.



At left the Gnome note which folded to become an envelope.

And above the inside of the Gnome Note.

These became so popular that I couldn't afford the postage as Graham Gnome only ever used fairyland postage on his letters and I had to pay Aussie Post postage. Daniel still loves those memories of doing the mail run with Gran. He was fascinated one time when we drove through clouds and came out in the village in sunshine. He excitedly told the girls on the front desk and had to go out the back to see Chris Deutscher to tell him all about driving through a cloud too.

During school holidays he had horse riding lessons organised by Chris Dunlop on some of his quiet horses and had a host of "friends" in the supermarket in Mansfield. One of his fondest memories was taking a BBQ lunch down the paddock when Chris and Gabe Malin and their two little boys were working with Cyril to build a fence. He also enjoyed Motorbike Club when he began riding a pee wee 50 and progressed through to his TTR 90. Although he lived in the suburbs of Melbourne he has strong connections to Merrijig and now he is about to turn 18 and go out into the world as a grown man.



Now Gran has to look up to little Daniel in his graduation suit.

Mansfield Shire Citizen of the Year

Merrijig has a nomination in this year's Australia Day Citizen of the Year awards. Who knows how many more Merrijiggers received a letter from the Mayor, our own representative Marg Attley, amongst their Christmas cards in the latter part of December?

One of you who is reading this newsletter must have nominated Adele McCormack because the nomination states that the newsletter is the reason for the nomination, in a nut shell, because it makes everyone, permanent or part timers, feel "just like a local". As Adele is me, I can tell you that I enjoy bringing out the newsletter and hearing about how people enjoy reading it, so being nominated for this award is like icing on the cake because it is something I enjoy doing. Yet at the same time I am thrilled that someone thought it worth the effort to put in a nomination. This year is the second year in a row for being nominated for the newsletter which is taken as an acknowledgement of the value of the exercise.

There is to be an afternoon tea at the shire offices on January 14 when all the section winners for 2015 will be presented with their awards and nomination certificates. There are sections for Citizen, Young Citizen and Community Event of the Year, plus a new category – Senior Citizen of the Year.

It may be that there will be more Merrijiggers amongst the gathering who have not shared the news with the editor.

Fuel costs



I wrote an article for last month's newsletter on this topic but pulled it as the newsletter was becoming too long. I was annoyed that the fuel price in Mansfield was ALWAYS excessively higher than other places not just the city. I am fortunate that my vehicle has two tanks and I usually fill up when the second tank is low buying more than 100 ltrs at a time. On a recent trip to Melbourne I filled up and noticed the advertised price at Mansfield on my return as 21 cents per litre higher than I had paid in Lilydale. On that occasion I bought 153 ltrs which would have cost me a bit over \$32 more had I purchased it in Mansfield. Why do Mansfield fuel prices have to be so much higher per litre than anywhere else nearby? The prices advertised in Mansfield are similar to outback Australia, yet we are not an isolated community.

I had been told when this questions was raised some years ago that Mansfield is at the end of the road, there is nowhere else for the truck to go after it unloads in Mansfield, but that's not even a logical argument, as a tanker is empty when it's empty and must go back empty to refill from its depot no matter where it becomes empty.

It was a surprise to me to find that our local Federal member **Cathy McGowan** has picked up the banner on fuel prices in this area.

She believes that motorists in Indi deserve an explanation about the recent high fuel prices at the pump in response to constituent concerns that the price has not fallen as expected, Cathy has called on the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) to investigate the petrol pricing behaviour in Indi. The ACCC is reportedly conducting four 'deep dive' investigations in regional Australia and Cathy has requested Indi be included. She also welcomed news the Government had directed the ACCC to conduct quarterly fuel price monitoring.

The Media, Communications and Community Engagement officer working in the office of Cathy McGowan, **Simon Crase**, said in an email "Cathy has written to the Treasurer, Joe Hockey, and called on him to ask the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) to investigate the pricing behaviour of fuel outlets in Indi.

This course of action was taken due to the recent high prices of fuel in comparison to metropolitan areas. Fuel prices in some regional areas do not appear to be falling as expected."

"A letter has also been sent to the ACCC chairman, Mr Rod Sims, asking for him to focus a 'deep dive' investigation into fuel prices, costs and profits in Indi." Simon mentioned, "This follows Minister for Small Business, the Hon Bruce Billson MP, giving the ACCC greater reporting powers and direction to carry out these investigations."

I, your newsletter editor, registered a complaint with the ACCC in November when the price difference was 20 cents, now in December it was 21 cents.

<https://www.accc.gov.au/consumers/complaints-problems/make-a-consumer-complaint>

I received a reply simply informing me that they don't set the price of fuel but would keep a record of my complaint in case there were more to follow. So if this is an area of concern to you as well please jump on board and register your dissatisfaction and be counted. Perhaps if they realise that it's not just me and Cathy McGowan who this annoys, there may be changes made.

When I enquired if it would be OK to mention MP Cathy McGowan's work in this area, Simon responded with, "That would be good to include this story in your newsletter and Cathy would also like to hear from those who

read it so that she can then make public how her constituents want something to change in this issue. I think most regional people don't mind paying a little more than metro but the huge differences we've seen are unfair." Cathy.McGowan.MP@aph.gov.au is how you can register your issues with our Independent federal MP who appears to have her finger on the pulse of what is important to the locals.

You can contact Simon by emailing simon.crase@aph.gov.au as he handles our representative's correspondence.

I did a little research of recent prices of fuel and it seems that perhaps Mansfield service stations have lowered their advertised prices, likely due to adverse attention. If there is pressure kept on the prices we may see a fairer pricing structure for Mansfield Shire residents.

Below are Prices taken from the RACV website for fuel prices on 21st of December

Locality	Unleaded	Diesel	LPG
Benalla	144.6	145.7	79.1
Euroa	132.3	140.8	77.6
Lilydale	118.3	136.9	
Seymour	124.8	139.0	66.4
Shepparton	138.8	141.9	69.9
Wangaratta	137.0	141.4	79.5
Yarrawonga	145.0	145.6	90.8

On December 22

Mansfield	139.9	145.9
Bonnie Doon	130.9	139.9

Merrijig Primary School News

End of the year horse ride and picnic was a big hit on Friday, December 19th.



Following their final horse riding for 2014 the school population enjoyed a picnic lunch at McCormack Park before packing up and heading home to begin the long school holidays. It's difficult to tell who is happier, the mums who don't have to rush around each morning to get kids to school on time, or the kids because holidays are holidays after all. I would imagine the teachers are not too unhappy either having a chance for a few sleep ins and time to re coup before the next school year begins.

School resumes on January 29th for students but teachers need to go back a day earlier ... Oh poor teachers!

Merrijig Family Fun Day



Saturday, March 28th 2015

Weather plays havoc with Fun Day sign

The banner to advertise the upcoming Merrijig Family Fun Day was put on display recently in Bruce and Deb McCormack's "School Paddock" opposite the Merrijig Hall, but the wind decided to give it a good test and won the event.



It was decided that the framework made available by Andrew Jurriens would offer better support for the banner if it has some solid backing on it. A bit of a working bee was organised and old sheets of corrugated iron were fixed to the frame by Brian Pollard and Paul Jackson.





The advertising banner was paid for by money from a Shire Grant managed by the Hall Committee for Community improvement and activities and now will be solid and securely on display until the event is over after which it will be packed away safely for future use if this first event is a success as it appears it will be.

Positive feedback indicates that this different date will work well in the busy warm time we have available in Merrijig for outdoor activities. The vintage Motorbikes from Peter Arundel are available for display as are the motorbike club members, who will organise a display of what the young riders learn at club time. There has been positive interest from prospective stall holders and following a mail out to community groups several are looking at becoming involved. Nungar knots are also thinking of a way to become involved with perhaps a display of how their invention of a bit less bridle works.

Keep this event in mind and become involved in any way you care to. You are only limited by your imagination.

Some of the program has been prepared:

Ideas for the pedestrian and equestrian programs are below.
Some of these events can be run simultaneously
in different parts of McCormack Park.
Free entry to these games

Running races

Children's events

Pre school - U/8 - U/10 - U/12 – U/15 – U/18

Adult events

Singles race – open women – Open Men
Mum's against Mum's - Dad's against Dad's - Grandparents

Novelty events

Three legged race

Anyone can team up

Hobby Horse race

Children's events:- U/6 – U/12 – U/18

Adult events:- Singles – Mum's – Dad's –Grandparents

Egg and spoon race

Anyone can team up

Throw the raw egg

Anyone can team up

Punch the footy (We will need a target for this game Footy club may loan us something)

Anyone

Gumboot toss (We will need a collection of gumboots, small for kids, large for adults approx. same weights for fair playing)

Kids - Adults

Potato Peeling (We will need new peelers so everyone starts with good equipment)

Anyone who can safely handle a peeler

Other fun day committee run activities – where a small entry fee may apply

The Dog Jump event – David Lovick in charge assisted by Brian Pollard

Two sections one for small dogs one for regular dogs

Equestrian fun games – Jacquie Pollard in Charge assisted by Rhyll McCormack

Jacquie has a program worked out.

Horse obstacle quest – Paul Jackson in charge assisted by

A timed event where skill of the rider and horse team is evaluated as they pass through the obstacle course so speed is not the main consideration.
To take place in First Paddock beyond car park area the event includes weaving around saplings, riding through a creek cut away, up a steep incline, along a ridge, down a cattle track through a rocky creek, across the flat, through the side of the dam and back to near the start to finish.

Other games

Choco Toss – sponsored by AJ's Laundry

Ideas welcome – plenty of opportunity for any community group, school or club to get involved with a game or contest.

Equestrian Events

- Rough program open to suggestions and alterations

1. Led Pony 12HH & under/ 12HH & under 14HH /Galloway/14HH & Under 15HH
2. Neatest & Cleanest Rider and mount
3. Rider 7 Years and Under (Novice)/ 8 Years and Under 11 Years (Novice)/ 11 Years and Under 14 Years (Novice)/ 14 Years and Under 18 Years (Novice)/ 18 Years and over (Novice)
4. Local Rider of Any Age (Merrijig & Mansfield District)
5. Pair of Riders, Any size - Any age
6. Quietest horse or Pony (Rider 10 years & Under)/ Rider 11 years & older)
7. Prettiest Horse or Pony (Rider 10 years & Under)/ (Rider 11 years & older)
8. Pony with the Longest Tail/ Horse with the Longest Tail
9. Horse or Pony with the longest Mane
10. Hairiest Pony/Horse
11. Consolation Ride (for anyone who has not won any prizes all day)

Novelty Events

1. Musical Chairs (Rider 12 years & Under)/ (Rider 13 years & Under 16 years)/ (Rider 16 years & over)
2. Sack Race (Rider 12 years & Under) /(open)
3. Apple Bob Race (Rider 12 years & Under)/ (Rider 13 years & over)
4. Fancy Dress (Rider 12 years & Under)/ (Rider 13 years & over)

Barrel Race

1. (Rider 12 years & Under)/ Rider 13 years & Under 16 years/ Rider 16 years & over
2. **Obstacle course** (timed and judged event)
U/10 (led by parent)/ 11 to 14/ Over 15/ Veteran (over 40 riders)

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 you are invited to be part of the organising committee or one of the growing Friend of group.

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 it up in Brighton

Adele McCormack – who owns **M’shed at Merrijig**

Mansfield shire -**Tourism & Economic Development**

Eliza Foster – owner of **Made In The Shade Umbrellas**

Merrijig Hall Committee will cover some Advertising expenses using part of a community grant entrusted to them by Mansfield Shire



A WORD FROM THE SHIRE



Cr Marg Attley is your local representative on Mansfield Shire Council.
She is available to be contacted on: 5776 2231 or marg.attley@mansfield.vic.gov.au

Sue Arndt from the shire hopes people in the region have access to UP-TO-DATE FIRE INFORMATION SOURCES



Stay informed via multiple channels and regular monitoring via www.emergency.vic.gov.au

Tune into local ABC, commercial and community designated radio stations or Sky News TV

Call the Victorian Bushfire Information Line (VBIL) on freecall 1800 240 667.

Deaf, hard of hearing, or have a speech/communication impairment can contact VBIL via the National Relay Service on 1800 555 677.

For help with English, call the Translating and Interpreting Service on 131 450 (freecall) and ask them to telephone VBIL. If you know someone who cannot speak English, provide them with this number

Download the FireReady App and follow @CFA_Updates on Twitter (#VicFires) or Facebook www.facebook.com/cfavic

For info on road closures – Vic Roads www.vicroads.vic.gov.au

For info on park closures – Parks Victoria www.parks.vic.gov.au or 13 19 63

Understand the FIRE DANGER RATINGS .

WATCH THIS SHORT VIDEO - WARNINGS & ADVICE MESSAGES

The CFA and partner agencies have developed a series of short, animated videos to help explain what can be expected from Warnings and Advice messages: www.cfa.vic.gov.au/warnings-restrictions/about-warnings/

You may find the “Warnings: Bushfire and grassfires” clip (second in the playlist) particularly useful.

Activities at Merrijig Hall - call for community support?

Following the Poetry afternoon at the hall, the organisers have been wondering **IF** in fact people in Merrijig want events in the local hall.

Originally with grant money available from the shire in the care of the Hall committee, it was imagined that each activity would make a profit which could build up, eventually allowing for some fantastic local event to get off the ground - perhaps even a music festival. But with each event barely or not covering costs, this is never going to eventuate unless the community gets behind the things made available.

Considering that for a whole month Frank Johnson and Adele McCormack were working on providing this event for local poets and musicians as well as those locals who enjoy the entertainment of music and bush poetry, it is not unexpected that they now find themselves wondering if the effort was worth it. Perhaps people don't think about the work that must go in to providing such entertainment close to home. The trophies and prizes must be organised and collected, advertising and posters have to be created organised and placed around. Notices need to be sent to the local community alerting them to the activity, School children this time were addressed at school to stimulate interest from the young ones. Then at the last minute the food had to be purchased so that sandwiches could be made on top of these must dos there is all the running around to get these jobs done so that the activity can be provided for Merrijig people and our neighbours.

After the last Rock and Roll night there were many requests to repeat that activity, but as the poets afternoon was also a '**please repeat**' request followed by little support from the general community once the effort has been put in, then the Rock and Roll night is not likely to be repeated.

If the activities sub-committee is to keep on creating opportunities for the locals to have a social outlet then there is a need for feedback from **YOU** out there. The sub-committee can only guess at what may interest the general community and it would appear that they are missing the target.

Please drop a line to Frank Johnson on delaview2121@bigpond.com or call him on 0400 315 344 with your suggestions for activities the community would support. Alternately you can contact Adele with your ideas for stimulating community activities in and around the jig.

Ask yourself

1/ What do I miss doing that I would LOVE to be able to do again?

2/ What day of the week would be best to hold an activity on to get the greater part of the local community to attend?

3/ When would be the best time of day or night to hold an activity?

4/ Which season of the year would be the best time to offer an activity to the community?

5/ What would be great fun and have people lining up to come along?

6/ What prices should be charged? Are the entry prices too low? What message are low entry prices giving? – **please give Frank (or Adele) your thoughts when you think about these questions.**

Your help is needed if this side of the community involvement is to go ahead. If it eventuates that there is no feedback that will be all that's needed to be sure that there is no need for an activities subcommittee on the hall committee at all.

The sub-committee doesn't mind one way or the other, they simply don't want to be wasting their time effort and fuel organising another event that no-one wants to attend.



Some useful information - Mansfield Buy, Swap and Sell

If you have a Facebook page and you have something to sell or there is something you want to purchase you may like to check out this link to Mansfield Buy Swap and Sell. You can save a lot on travel time if you can get what you need locally. It costs nothing to join:

https://www.facebook.com/groups/342516362453439/818865168151887/?notif_t=group_activity

The shire also has a page on Facebook where community groups can put up notices at no cost.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/community.development.mansfield/?fref=ts>

This is also a good page to refer to when you need to check up on what's going on as the shire will place notices of road closures etc.

Free camping Victoria often refers to places to camp around the North East as well as other spots around the state. If you are interested in finding a new place to go for a break that's not too far away this may be the place to look.

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Free-Camping-Victoria/437219893014512>

Phone Tree update

The Buttercup Rd Phone Tree has been updated. There will be a test run of the tree early in the first week of January. So those included please be sure to have your phone tree in your wallet, phone case or purse so you can keep the tree going.

If you live along Buttercup Rd and would like to be included on the tree please contact Louise Jacob by writing to enquiries@merrijig.com.au by this Friday, January 2. Please include your names, your street number in Buttercup Rd, your landline and mobile phone numbers plus your email address so a copy can be sent to you.

If you have not been contacted by Louise in the last week in December then you are possibly not on the tree. If you prefer you could phone Louise on 5777 5591.

McCormack Park – a popular outdoor spot

The home of Merrijig Rodeo and Merrijig Campdraft has been very popular of late with various locals taking up the option of using the facility free of charge. Latoya Ward who is once again in the running in the Australian Rodeo Queen Quest has used the arena to improve her barrel racing.



Fund Raiser for Royal Childrens' Hospital

Latoya is also making plans to hold a Barrel Racing event at McCormack Park to raise money for her charity, the Royal Children's Hospital, as part of her Queen quest. This quest helps contestants improve their own talents while highlighting and encouraging women in skilled riding such as Rodeo and Barrel racing. Latoya also supports 'riding for disabled children' in Benalla and various other local charities.



Merrijig School had their end of year picnic lunch at McCormack Park after horse and cart riding from the school plus riding lessons.

The Merrijig Campdrafters are having their thank you BBQ on Jan 5th for all the committee and people who have helped bring McCormack Park up to Campdraft standards so that running an event goes so smoothly now it's fun for everyone including the workers on the day.

January 18th has also been booked for horse riding lesson workshops - this same group of local participants used the area last year with Fiona Dearing from Remote Coach, and were so pleased that the riders took up a collection which was almost exactly the amount needed to pay the Incorporation renewal.

Amanda Lovick said "I have her Remote Coach downloads and her training principles have helped develop my riding and my relationship with my horses and am looking forward to putting her principles into practice at her clinic." Fiona's flyer says that she specialises in working with goals from beginner, adult and youth riders through to competitive riders (up to Elementary). Her clarity of instruction, adherence to the training scale (no matter what level she's coaching) and understanding of individual situations ensures that students achieve their goals, gain confidence and truly enjoy their riding.



Al Rice in his wagon pulled by his trusty steed provided the student population with a ride to Bruce and Deb McCormack's for horse riding, and to McCormack Park for the end of year picnic.

Please contact Kylie by email at booties75@bigpond.com to book a place as there is still time to join in.

Friends of Changue Road Reserve

On November 22nd in Merrijig Hall Kirsten Lingard from Mansfield Shire presided over a meeting entitled 'Changue Road Community Open Space Forum' attended by 18 people.

After establishing some basic forum ground rules people were encouraged to work in small groups to work through a process during which all areas could be covered including feelings about the proposed development, the facts that must be accepted as unalterable, the positives and the negatives, as well as work out creative ways to solve any impasse then organising the way forward.

There were four groups which used this system of discussion resulting in an agreement to :-

1. Ask council to develop a simple survey for ratepayers in the region. The survey will offer three options, the simplest being a pathway, the most detailed being everything on the wish list and the 3rd something in between. No costs will be included though.
2. When survey results are in - Council will decide according to the majority vote.
3. The results will be widely circulated via email data bases, newsletters, newspaper and web sites.
4. Working in conjunction with Council the Friends of Changue Road group will be responsible for implementing the results of the survey.
5. Everyone is welcome to join the Friends group and be involved in implementing the project.

6. The working bee advertised below is the first step in this process.

For those already in the know about the scheduled working bee, please be advised that this planned working bee/community get together has been postponed due to the extreme weather conditions expected on that date which eliminates use of slashers etc. Re-scheduled date to be advised.

Campdraft news

Merrijig Campdraft secretary Andrea Pickett reported “We did really well with almost \$6,000 being raised. It will be put to a meeting for approval that most of this profit (\$5000) will be put in a new high interest account as a commitment to McCormack Park for toilet/shower/power etc.”

“Everyone LOVES the venue and area;” she continued, “we are extremely appreciative that we have been generously supported by both the local and the Campdraft community.”

“A barbecue thank you for the committee and friends who have over the years donated 'blood, sweat and tears' (ie time & labour!!) to get the venue to where we are today will be held on January 5 at 6 pm.” Andrea concluded “We at Merrijig Campdraft Association want to let everyone know how appreciative and excited we are about the future of McCormack Park.”

Mansfield Walking Club

The club took a break over the Christmas season but will be back into it again in **January 2015** on **Sunday, Jan 11** for a trek from **Fry's to Tobacco flat**.

Jacky Noble mentioned “This is a 'wet feet' walk with multiple crossings of the Howqua River.”

If this interests you or you have some visitors during the holiday season who would like to participate contact Jacky walkers3722@mail.com or this walk leader David Smithwick 57751251

Bonfire at Merrijig

When you're cleaning up around the house to be fire ready there is no need to cart your green waste all the way in to Mansfield. For years, the bonfire in the paddock between the shearing shed and the house on Bally Patrick is available for any Merrijig people to put their clean combustibles on.



Frank Johnson adds to the bonfire pile with some of the clearing up around his place on Mt Buller Rd.

Just before the fire ban season starts, the bonfire is lit usually around the end of October, and anyone who cares to come along for the fun is welcome to do so, bringing their drinks, chairs and barbecue food to be cooked on the big 44 gal. drum barbecue alongside the fire. We all know the guys like to

shovel up the fuel as the bonfire dies down and kids enjoy toasting marshmallows and everyone loves the ambience of a bonfire. It's reminiscent of many such bonfires we baby boomers grew up with on Guy Faulk's nights. Sad that those days have gone this night is "A great excuse for a party!"

This bonfire building has been going for a long time now, for instance when the hall was renovated the old timbers and other combustibles made up that year's bonfire along with removed trees from Bally Patrick, when Merrijiggers have been renovating their homes or sheds clean combustible building materials created another year's bonfire with fallen timber from the farm added of course.

It has just come to my notice that the message has become lost along the way and people have been paying to dump their green waste at the tip when it's not necessary for Merrijiggers to do so.



← Enter through this gateway next to the house fence and the bonfire is easily seen from there. This is the horses paddock, so be wary of the horses they are a bit cheeky.



The 2014 Bonfire

For more information feel free to give me a call on 0409 600 655 or email me on adelemac15@bigpond.com

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



Phone Paul Jackson
0427 384 648

Quick catering

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Group catering, Private parties,
Weddings & Wakes
including advice and preparation
also hiring table waiting teams.

Wanted - Alive

Two great holiday jobs starting January

an opportunity for a fun time and meals

also possible vacancies for casual bar staff.

Contact

Rosemary Wrell

Unit 105 Hotel

27-03 5777 5656 - Fax 03 5777 5656

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 parties
And was a big hit at the 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**

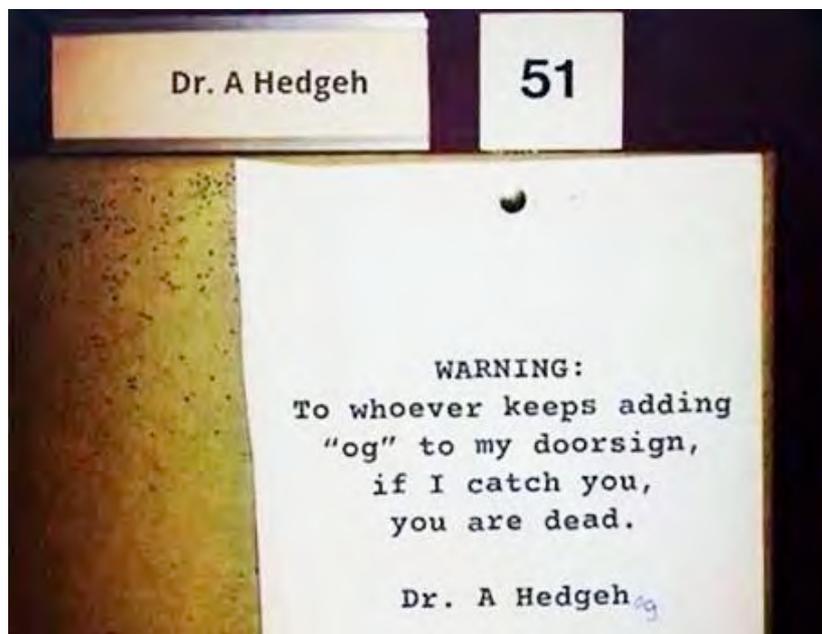
NOW FOR A FINAL GOOD LAUGH!

What's in a name you ask?

A woman has twins, and gives them up for adoption. One of them goes to a family in Egypt and is named 'Amal.' The other goes to a family in Spain, they name him Juan'.

Years later; Juan sends a picture of himself to his mum. Upon receiving the picture, she tells her husband that she wished she also had a picture of Amal.

Her husband responds, "But they are twins. If you've seen Juan, you've seen Amal."



Bye for now Adele

Adele McCormack
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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